



Safe Substitutes for Hazardous Household Products

Replace the following hazardous products with one that is less environmentally harmful. The hazardous cleaners are listed in bold face, followed by the suggested substitute.

AMMONIA-BASED CLEANERS: Sprinkle baking soda on a damp sponge. For windows, use a solution of 2 Tbs. white vinegar to 1 quart of water. Place mixture into a spray bottle.

DISINFECTANTS: Use Borax: 1/2 cup in a gallon of water; deodorizes also.

DRAIN DECLOGGERS: Use a plunger or metal snake, or remove and clean trap.

CARPET/UPHOLSTERY CLEANERS: Sprinkle dry cornstarch or baking soda on, then vacuum. For tougher stains, blot with white vinegar in soapy water.

TOILET CLEANERS: Sprinkle on baking soda or Bon Ami, then scrub with a toilet brush.

FURNITURE/FLOOR POLISHES: To clean, use Oil Soap and warm water. Dry with soft cloth. Polish with 1 part lemon juice to 2 parts oil (any kind), or use natural products with lemon oil or beeswax in mineral oil.

METAL CLEANERS: Brass and copper; scrub with a used half of lemon dipped in salt. Stainless steel: use scouring pad and soapy water. Silver: rub gently with toothpaste and soft wet cloth.

OVEN CLEANERS: Promptly sprinkle salt on drips, then scrub. Use baking soda and scouring pads on older spills.

LAUNDRY DETERGENT: Choose one with a zero phosphate content or use soap flakes with 1/3 cup washing soda. (Before switching, wash clothes in pure washing soda to remove detergent residues.)