

Alternative Household Products

Part of household hazardous waste reduction is *product substitution*, that is, using a less toxic or non-toxic product to create a less toxic or non-toxic waste. Protect the environment, your health, and your home by replacing your household cleaning products with these less or non-toxic alternatives that you make yourself.

Ant Control

- Mix 2 Tablespoons boric acid, 2 Tablespoons sugar, and 1 cup water. Soak paper towels, place on dishes, and set out for ants.
- Pour a line of cream of tartar where ants enter.
- Put a light coating of petroleum jelly around the base of your pet's feeding dish to keep ants out.

Air Freshener

- Simmer cloves and cinnamon in boiling water.
- Leave opened box of baking soda in room.
- Set out a dish of vinegar.

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaner

- Clean stains immediately with club soda.
- Sprinkle cornstarch on rug and vacuum.
- Use soap-based, non-aerosol rug shampoo.

Chrome Cleaner

- Use baking soda and a dry cloth.

Drain Opener

- Use a plunger or mechanical snake.
- Pour 1/2 cup washing soda into drain, then pour 2 cups boiling water into drain. Flush drain weekly with boiling water.

Flea & Tick Repellent

- Scatter pine needles, fennel, rue, or rosemary on pet's bed.
- Feed pet brewer's yeast, vitamin B, or garlic tablets.

Furniture Polish

- Mix 2 parts vegetable oil and 1 part lemon juice. Apply, rub in, wipe clean.

Insect Spray for Plants

- Blend 6 cloves crushed garlic, 1 minced onion, 1 Tablespoon dried hot pepper, and 1 Tablespoon pure soap in 1-gallon hot water. Let sit 1 to 2 days; strain and use.

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Laundry Presoak

- Make paste of baking soda and water; apply to dirty spots.

Metal Cleaner

- Make paste of salt, vinegar, and flour. Start with a half-cup of salt, add enough vinegar to dissolve, add flour to create a damp paste.

Mothballs

- Sew dried lavender or cedar chips into small cloth bags and place with clothes.

Multi-Purpose Cleaner

- Mix 1/2 cup ammonia, 1/3 cup vinegar and 1/4 cup baking soda in 1 gallon of warm water.

Silver Polish

- Soak silver in a quart warm water containing 1 tsp. baking soda, 1 tsp. salt and a piece of aluminum foil.

Porcelain Cleaner

- Make paste from baking soda and water; apply to stain, let set, rub clean, rinse.

Septic System Cleaner

- Use professional service every 2 to 3 years. Chemical treatments don't work; some can actually harm your system.

Window Cleaner

- Use 1/2 cup vinegar in 1 gallon of warm water.
- Use lemon juice and dry soft cloth.
- Use newspaper to dry glass.

Additional Information

For more information regarding household hazardous waste, please contact hhw@des.nh.gov, call (603) 271-2047, or go to <http://des.nh.gov/>.