

## Reducing hazardous household products

The best solution to household hazardous waste is not to make the waste in the first place.

- 1.** Instead of using toxic products, try to use **safer, less toxic products**.
- 2.** Try to **buy only what you need**.
- 3.** Use it up **correctly**.
- 4.** Give the **leftover** to someone who can use it



## Safer alternatives to hazardous household products

Discarding wastes is not the only way hazardous products can harm our community. *Using* the product-- even when we use it correctly-- can pollute our environment. For example, many products, like bleach, thinners, and varnishes, can damage your lungs if you breathe them without opening your windows. But what happens when we open the window? The fumes go to our environment. It is like damaging the earth's lungs around our homes. If you can use some of the alternatives listed below, your home will be safer and you can even save money!

### All-purpose cleaner

Dissolve 4 tablespoons baking soda in 1 quart of warm water for a cleaning solution. Or use baking soda sprinkled on a damp sponge. Baking soda will clean all kitchen and bathroom surfaces.

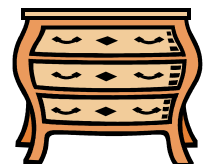
### Drain cleaner

Prevent drain clogging! Use a strainer to trap food particles and hair. Collect grease in cans instead of pouring it down the drain. And to maintain a no-clog sink: *Once each week*, put 1/2 cup baking soda and then 1/2 cup white vinegar down your drain. Cover the drain. Let set for a few minutes. Then pour boiling water down the drain to flush it.



### Furniture polish

Dissolve 1 part lemon juice into 2 parts vegetable or mineral oil. Apply and polish with a soft cloth.

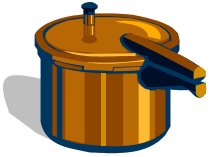


### Glass and Window Cleaners

Use cornstarch and water! Or mix 1/2 cup vinegar with one quart of warm water.

## **Metal cleaner/polish**

**Aluminum Cleaner** To remove stains and discoloration from aluminum cookware, fill cookware with hot water. Add 2 tablespoons creme of tartar to each quart of water. Bring solution to a boil and simmer ten minutes. Wash as usual and dry.



**Brass Cleaner** Clean and polish unlacquered brass to a shine with a soft cloth that has been dampened with Worcestershire sauce (!).

**Silver Cleaner** To clean tarnish off gold and silver, use toothpaste and a soft toothbrush or cloth. Rinse with clean warm water and polish dry.

**Copper Cleaners** Pour vinegar and salt over copper; rub and rinse.

## **Oven Cleaners**

Scrub with baking soda and water. Place liners in your oven to catch any drips during baking. Sprinkle salt on spills when they are warm and then scrub.



**Pests** Use boric acid to kill ants and roaches. Sprinkle a lot around the points of entry. *Warning:* Even though it is much safer than pesticides, boric acid has some toxicity. It should not be applied to areas where small children and animals might contact it.

## **Spot remover**

Immediately soak in cold water, lemon juice, club soda, or corn meal and water.

To remove ink stains, put creme of tartar on the stain. Squeeze a few drops of lemon juice over it. Rub into the stain for a minute. Brush off the powder. Sponge with warm water.

**To find more alternatives, go to the following sites:**

<http://www.metrokc.gov/dnr/kidsweb/alternatives.htm>

<http://www.p2pays.org/ref/04/03591.htm#link6>

<http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/seahome/housewaste/src/recipes.htm>

[http://www.naturodoc.com/library/lifestyle/green\\_clean.htm](http://www.naturodoc.com/library/lifestyle/green_clean.htm)

[http://www.greenhome.com/products/housekeeping/all\\_purpose\\_cleaners/](http://www.greenhome.com/products/housekeeping/all_purpose_cleaners/)

[http://www.microsoft.com/canada/home/styleandhome/2.3.51\\_thinkgreenwhenyouspringclean.asp](http://www.microsoft.com/canada/home/styleandhome/2.3.51_thinkgreenwhenyouspringclean.asp)

<http://www.care2.com/channels/solutions/home/344>

<http://www.checnet.org/healthhouse/virtualhouse/index.asp>