



Earth-Friendly Alternatives for Common Household Products



Household Product	Alternative
Aerosol sprays	Choose non-aerosol options such as roll on deodorants, manual spray pumps, lotions and gels.
Air Freshener	Open a box of baking soda. Boil cinnamon, cloves or peels from lemon/oranges. Use herbal potpourri or candles. Cotton balls soaked in vanilla.
All-purpose cleaner	1 gallon water mixed with 1/4 cup white vinegar. 1 quart hot water mixed with 1 tsp borax add lemon juice or vinegar to cut grease. Rinse with water.
Bathroom cleaner	Scrub with baking soda. Wipe with 1 gallon water mixed with 1/4 cup white vinegar.
Batteries	Use rechargables, ac adapters or solar power
Bleach cleaners	Use powdered bleach, not liquid.
Chemical fertilizers	Use compost and organic fertilizers.
Chrome cleaner	Use baking soda and a dry cloth.
Cleanser	Rub area with 1/2 lemon dipped in borax. Damp sponge with baking soda.
Copper cleaner	Splash with vinegar or lemon juice and sprinkle with salt. Rub with clean cloth.
Disinfectant	Mix 1 part of each: soap, borax, isopropyl alcohol. Mix 1/2 cup borax with 1 gallon of water. Undiluted white vinegar.
Drain cleaner	Open with a plunger or metal snake. Pour 1/4 cup baking soda then 1/2 cup of vinegar. Rinse with hot water.
Fertilizer: lawn	In spring evenly spread a light layer of fine compost across lawn. This adds nutrients and organic matter to your soil. Using a lawn aerator will improve soil and reduce the need for fertilizers.
Flea collars and sprays	Pennyroyal ointment, herbal flea collars, brewers yeast in pet's food.
Floor cleaner	Mix 2 tsp borax and 2 tsp liquid dish soap with 2 quarts of hot water.
Fungicides	Do not over water, keep area dry and clean. Apply normal, household cinnamon powder directly to the affected part of the plant by dusting heavily.
Furniture polish	Mix 1 part lemon juice and 2 parts olive oil or carnauba wax. Use toothpaste to remove water stains.
Furniture stripper	Sandpaper and steel wool, remove with heat gun and scrapper.
Glass cleaner	Mix 1 tsp vinegar or lemon juice with 1 quart of water, spray on and wipe off with newspaper.
Grout cleaner	rinse.
Hand cleaner	To clean paint or grease rub hand with cooking oil then wash with soap and water.
Herbicide: Crabgrass	Cover with black tarp for 2 weeks.
Herbicide: Weeds	Physical removal, mulching.
Insecticide: aphids/soft-bodied bugs	70% or 90% isopropyl rubbing alcohol - touch insects with a soaked cotton swab, or for larger infestations, spray the entire affected plant, being sure to thoroughly wet all surfaces. Repeat every 3 days for about 2 weeks.
Insect repellent	Pump sprays or rub on repellants. Use screens and protective clothing. Avoid colognes and hair sprays.
Insecticide: Ants	Sprinkle red chili pepper, cinnamon or cucumber peels around entrances.
Insecticide: Garden Pests	Ground onion and garlic in water, spray on plants. Hot chili powder in water, spray on plants. Dish soap in water, spray on plants then rinse.
Insecticide: Moths	Cedar chips, lavender flowers.
Insecticide: Roaches	Set traps using baking soda and powdered sugar as bait
Insecticide: Slugs and Snails	Beer or vinegar in containers at ground level, sprinkle ground with salt.

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Laundry: bleach	Choose powdered bleach over liquid.
Laundry: grease stains	Rub cornmeal and water into stain and rinse with lemon juice before washing.
Laundry: perspiration stains	Presoak in a weak solution of vinegar and water .
Laundry: presoak	Soak spot in 1/4 cup borax and 2 cups of water.
Mothballs	Use cedar chips, lavender flowers, rosemary, mint or white peppercorns.
Oil spills	Sprinkle with cat litter or cement powder, let stand a few hours then sweep it up.
Oven cleaner	Clean when oven cools using steel wool and a baking soda and water paste Clean greasy spots with a vinegar soaked rag.
Paints	Choose natural or water based paints whenever possible, they contain less hazardous substances.
Rodenticide: Garden	Build screen fence with bottom 2 inches buried.
Rodenticide: Mice and Rats	Baited traps, chopped bay leaves, mint or cucumber skins. Remove food supply, patch up entry holes.
Rug deodorizer	Sprinkle with baking soda and wait 15 minutes then vacuum. Repeat if necessary.
Rug shampoo	Mix 1 part white vinegar with 3 parts boiling water, apply to nap of rug with rag without soaking the backing, allow to dry, vacuum.
Rust remover	Scrub with vinegar.
Scouring powder	Damp sponge with baking soda.
Silver cleaner	Baking soda and water. Mild brushing with toothpaste. Soak in boiling water with baking soda, salt and a piece of aluminum foil.
Sinks and countertops	Wipe with vinegar mixed with water and salt.
Spot remover	Club soda, cold water, dish detergent, lemon juice.
Stains and finishes	Choose water based finishes or natural earth pigment finishes.
Stains: chocolate	Blot with club soda.
Toilet bowl cleaner	Add one cup vinegar and one handful of baking soda to bowl. Scrub and rinse when foaming stops. Toilet brush and borax or baking soda.

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