

Dangers of Household Cleaning Products

Mixing bleach with ammonia can kill you. Chlorine gas is so dangerous it was used as a chemical warfare agent in World War I.

NEVER mix bleach with



Household Cleaning Facts

- 1. The American homeowner uses more than 40 pounds of toxic cleaning products a year.**
- 2. Fifteen percent of all toxic pollutants that enter our streams and rivers come from our homes.**
- 3. If you make your own cleaners you can save hundreds of dollars.**
- 4. If every household in the U.S. replaced just one bottle of 28oz. petroleum-based dishwashing liquid with a vegetable-based, non toxic dishwashing liquid, we would save 82,000 barrels of oil.**

Recipes for Easy Alternative to Hazardous Materials

Drain cleaner	½ cup baking soda followed by ½ vinegar. Let stand 15 minutes. Flush with hot water.
Cleanser	Straight vinegar, vinegar and salt, or a paste of baking soda and water are all effective grease cutters. Borax sprinkled on a sponge or lemon wedge to remove spots.
Window cleaner	Equal amounts of vinegar and water mixed in a spray bottle. A solution of ½ cup of rubbing alcohol in 1 quart water will remove hairspray residue.
Multi purpose cleaner	1 tsp. peppermint castile soap, 1 tsp. Borax and a squeeze of lemon in 1 quart of water. Vinegar, salt and water for surfaces. Baking soda and water for bathrooms.
Toilet bowl cleaner	Baking soda. For tough stains make a paste of lemon juice and Borax apply for 20 minutes before scrubbing.
Silver cleaner	Line bottom of a glass container with aluminum foil shiny side up. Add 1 Tbsp. of baking soda, 1 Tbsp. of salt and enough boiling water to cover silver pieces. Wait a few minutes and dry.
Grease stains	Sprinkle immediately with corn starch or corn meal. Wait until dry and brush away.
Protein stains (blood, grass, eggs)	Soak immediately in 1 cup of Borax in cold water for 30 minutes. Wash as usual.
Shampoo, rugs, carpets (Try small test area)	Mix ¼ cup liquid dishwashing detergent with 1 cup of warm water in a large bowl and beat to a dry sudsy foam. Apply and scrub vigorously with a scrub brush. Let dry and vacuum.
Carpet/upholstery stains (Try small test area)	Baking soda and water to make a paste will remove many stains. Let dry one hour and vacuum. To get a stain out of a carpet or upholstery pour seltzer on the area then soak up excess with a towel. Then spread corn starch on top of the seltzer and let stand overnight, vacuum the next morning. The next morning vacuum.

Other Cleaning Tips

Another Use For Used Dryer Sheets. Take a used dryer sheet and cut it to fit inside your air vents. The sheet acts like a filter thus reducing the need to dust and run the vacuum so much. Just change them as needed.

Cheap And Easy Oven Cleaner. A great way to clean your oven with no smell and little money is to mix baking soda and water to form a paste. At night I put on a pair of disposable latex gloves and smear it all over the inside of my oven. Then throw away the gloves and go to bed. (leave the oven door open) The next morning when it is dry, simply use a wet sponge to remove the dried mixture, and all that icky oven stuff comes right off with it!

Microwave Clean. Mix one teaspoon of vinegar with 2/3 cup of water and place in microwave for one to two minutes. The vinegar prevents the water from boiling over while making the microwave a breeze to clean, including the splatters from tomato based sauce. Once the water cools slightly use it to clean the kitchen countertops. It will sterilize the countertops for a lot less than expensive cleaners.

Toothpaste--a Versatile Cleaner.

Want to remove a stain without damaging the smooth surface of furniture and countertops? Use toothpaste. The extra mild abrasives in toothpaste remove stains without scratching the surface. I have used toothpaste to remove water stains on finished furniture and stains on kitchen countertops. It also works on small rust stains. Simply rub a dab into the stain for about 30 seconds and wipe it away.

Odor Control. Bowls of white vinegar will absorb the odor of cigarette smoke after a party or gathering. After the party, just put out two or three bowls of white vinegar overnight. In the morning there will be no smoke odor left.

Crayon on the Wall. Here is a quick and easy way to remove crayon on painted or wallpapered walls. With blow dryer in one hand (set on low) and a clean cloth in the other, simply heat the wax and wipe clean with the cloth.

Go to the City of Beloit, WI website for a variety of other tips. Click on departments, click on public works, click on water resources.