

Non-Toxic Cleaning Alternatives

The following list provides non-toxic alternatives to typical cleaning products. It should be noted that even non-toxic substances can cause temporary harm to the environment and should therefore be used sparingly.

When cleaning, always try water and a little elbow grease first.

ALL PURPOSE CLEANER	Mix one cup white vinegar with two gallons water.
AIR FRESHENER	Leave out an open box of baking soda.
AMMONIA-BASED CLEANERS	Vinegar, salt, and water.
BRASS CLEANER	Worcestershire sauce. Or paste made with equal amounts of salt, vinegar, and water.
COPPER CLEANER	Lemon juice and water. Or paste of lemon juice, salt, and flour.
CHLORINE BLEACH	Baking soda and water. Or borax.
CHROME CLEANER/POLISH	Apple cider vinegar to clean; baby oil to polish.
DISINFECTANTS	One half a cup borax in one gallon of water.
DRAIN OPENER	Disassemble and use a plumber's snake. Or flush with boiling water mixed with one quarter cup baking soda and one quarter cup vinegar.
FIBERGLASS STAIN REMOVER	Baking soda paste.
FLOOR CLEANER	One-cup vinegar plus two gallons of water.
PAINTS	Use latex or water-based paints.
PAINT REMOVER / STRIPPER	Use heat gun to peel off paint.
PAINT THINNERS	Use water (effective for water-based paints).
STAINLESS STEEL CLEANER	Baking soda or mineral oil for polishing, vinegar to remove spots.
TOILET BOWL CLEANER	Use toilet brush and baking soda.
WOOD POLISH	Olive or almond oil (interior walls only)
WINDOW CLEANER	Mix two tablespoons vinegar in one quart of water or rub glass with newspaper.

Sources: Buller (1995) and MA Department of Environmental Management, Environmental Hazards Management Institute.