

Safer Alternative Cleaners

Baking Soda - Cleans and deodorizes. Softens water to increase sudsing and cleaning power of soap. Good scouring powder.

Borax - Cleans and deodorizes. Excellent disinfectant. Softens water. Available in laundry section of grocery store.

Soap - Biodegrades safely and completely and is non-toxic. Available in grocery stores and health food stores. Sold as liquid, flakes, powder or in bars. Bars can be grated to dissolve more easily in hot water. Insist on soap without synthetic scents, colors or other additives.

Washing Soda - Cuts grease and removes stains. Disinfects. Softens water. Available in laundry section of grocery store or in pure form from chemical supply houses as "sodium carbonate."

White Vinegar or Lemon Juice - Cuts grease and freshens.

General Household Cleaner

Mix together:

1 tsp. liquid soap (castile, peppermint)

1 tsp. borax

Squeeze of lemon

1 qt. warm water

OR

¼ c. baking soda

½ c. borax

½ c. vinegar

1 gal. water

For surfaces that need scouring, try moist salt or baking soda and a green scouring pad.

Window Cleaner

Mix together:

2 tsp. vinegar

1 qt. warm water

OR

2 tbsp. borax

3 c. water

Rub dry with newspaper to avoid streaking.

Disinfectant

Mix together:

¼ c. borax

½ gal. hot water

Oven Cleaner

Mix together:

¼ c. baking soda

2 tbsp. salt

Hot water, as needed to make a paste.

Let paste sit for 5 minutes. Caution: Keep off wires/heating elements.

OR

2 tbsp. liquid soap (castile, peppermint)

2 tsp. borax

1 qt. warm water

Spray on oven and wait 20 minutes, then clean. For tough stains, scrub with very fine steel wool and baking soda.

Drain Cleaner

Pour together:

½ c. borax in drain followed by

2 c. boiling water

OR

¼ c baking soda down the drain, followed by

½ c. vinegar

Cover drain and let sit for 15 minutes. Follow with 2 qts. boiling water.

OR

Use a plumber's "snake" and boiling water.

Toilet Bowls

Pour:

¼ c. baking soda into bowl and drizzle with vinegar.

Let sit for ½ hour. Scrub and flush. Add borax for stains.

Ceramic Tiles

Mix together:

¼ c. vinegar

1 gal. warm water

Basin, Tub, and Tile

Mix together:

½ c. baking soda

2-3 tbsp. liquid soap (castile, peppermint)

Mildew Remover

Dissolve together:

½ c. vinegar

½ c. borax in warm water.

Apply with sponge or spray bottle.