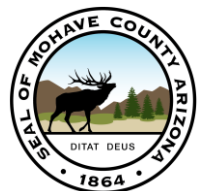




Alternatives to Traditional Cleaning Products

Many household cleaning products often get used for non-household cleaning projects. Outside the home, these products aren't flushed down the drain where they can be treated, but instead are swept directly in stormwater runoff and end up in our stream, rivers and lakes. Here are a few environmentally-friendly alternatives that with a little added elbow grease, will do the job.

Product	Household Alternative
General cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mix baking soda and vinegar. • Or, combine lemon juice with borax paste.
Surface cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mix 1 quart of hot water, 1tsp vegetable oil-based soap/detergent, 1tsp borax and 2 tbsp. vinegar. • Vinegar is used as a mild acid to cut grease, borax is used as a water softener, especially good with hard water, to prevent soapy deposits. • Mix 1 cup of vinegar in 1 quart of warm water. • Dissolve baking soda in hot water for a general cleaner.
Degreaser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a paste of lemon juice and borax. • When shopping for degreasing products, look for water-based products or citrus-based degreasers. • Avoid products that contain methylene chloride (known to cause cancer in laboratory animals). • Do not use gasoline to clean marine parts. Gas contains benzene carcinogenic to humans), that, upon evaporation, causes air pollution.
Dish cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use vegetable oil- based soaps/detergents.
Window cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dilute one cup of white vinegar with 1qt. water.
Floor cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To clean vinyl tile and linoleum, use 1/4 cup white vinegar, 1/4 cup of washing soda, in 1 gallon of warmwater, or one cup vinegar in 2 gallons of water. • Remove <i>scuff</i> marks on linoleum with toothpaste.
Fiberglass cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a paste of baking soda and water.
Aluminum cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • .Mix 1Tbsp. cream of tartar in 1 quart of hot water.
Brass cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • .Use Worcestershire sauce, or paste made of equal amounts of salt vinegar and water.
Copper cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use lemon juice and water, or paste made of equal amounts of lemon juice salt and flour.
Chrome polish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use apple cider vinegar to clean· baby oil to polish.



Product	Household Alternative
Hand cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply baby oil or margarine, then clean with soap and water.
Head and shower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean frequently with a mix of baking soda and water; brush thoroughly. Sprinkle baking soda around the rim of the toilet. • Or, to clean and deodorize the head, try a mix of 1/2 cup of borax per 1 gallon of water.
Stainless steel cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mix baking soda or mineral oil for polishing, vinegar to remove spots.
Scouring Powders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instead of scouring powder try using baking soda.
Rug/Upholstery cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sprinkle on dry corn starch sprinkled on; vacuum.
Teak cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a biodegradable soap to remove the dirt and salt water. • Instead of bleaching teak, try using a mild power soap and scrub with bronze wool.
Fiberglass stain remover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a Paste of baking soda and water.
Mildew removers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrub mildew with borax/water using a nylon scouring pad. • Try scrubbing mildew with a vinegar and salt paste (equal parts), if problem is not severe. • Try vinegar full strength, then rinse. • To inhibit mold and mildew, wash area with 1/2 cup borax /1 gallon hot water .
Wood polish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use olive walnut or almond oil.
Drain opener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disassemble or use plumber's snake. • Or flush with a mixture of boiling water, one-quarter cup of baking soda and one quarter cup of vinegar.



Product	Household Alternative
Paint Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid paints containing methylene chloride and • trichloroethylene (TCE) (evidence that these cause cancer in laboratory animals); benzene (known to cause cancer in humans); 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA) (irritant to eyes and tissues), xylene (toxic by drinking and breathing); or toluene (known to cause birth defects).
Wood Preservatives and stains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not use old products that contain pentachlorophenol (PCP) (evidence that it causes cancer in laboratory animals), creosote, tributyltin oxide, or folpet. • Water-based preservatives are available that can seal wood and protect it from water rot. • Use water-based stains. • Use finishes derived from natural sources, such as, shellac tung oil and linseed oil.

