

Safe Alternatives

for Common Household Products



Ants (in the house)

Locate every point and seal with caulk. Kill visible ants with soapy water. Remove all food sources.



Air Freshener

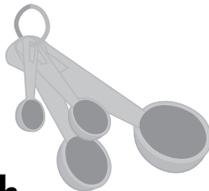
Simmer cinnamon and cloves.

Aluminum Spot Removal

Use two tablespoons of cream of tartar and one quart of hot water.

Bleach

Use borax.



Brass Polish

Polish with Worcestershire sauce.

Car Battery Corrosion Removal

Use baking soda and water.

Cleaners (general household)

Use one teaspoon of liquid soap, one teaspoon of borax, and one squeeze of lemon in a quart of warm water.

Chrome Polish

Polish with apple cider vinegar.

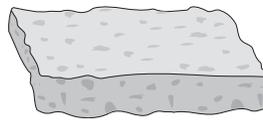
Copper Cleaner

Clean with lemon juice and salt.

Coffee Cup Stain Removal

Wash with moist salt.

Coffee Pot



Stain Removal

Soak in vinegar.

Decal Removal

Soak with white vinegar.

Dishwashing (cutting grease)

Use liquid soap and vinegar.

Drain Cleaner

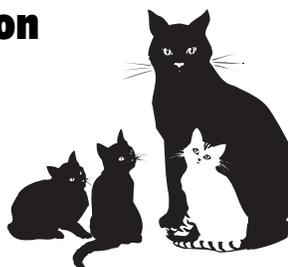
Use a plunger, followed by ½ cup of vinegar mixed with two quarts of boiling water.

Fleas (in the house) *

Vacuum twice a week and dispose of vacuum bags.

Fleas (on pets) *

Wash pet bedding. Treat pet and bedding with flea soap or a citrus oil product.



Fertilizer

Spread compost and vermicompost (worm compost).

Furniture Polish

Use linseed or almond oil.

Garbage Disposal Deodorizer

Place lemons or baking soda in the disposal.

Grease Removal

Use borax on a damp cloth.

Hand Cleaner (paint/grease)

Use baby oil.

Ink Spot Removal

Wash with cold water plus one tablespoon of cream of tartar and one tablespoon of lemon juice.

Insects on Plants *

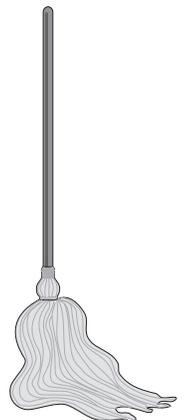
Use soapy water on leaves and then rinse.

Laundry Detergent

Use basic soap, phosphate free.

Linoleum Cleaner

Use one cup of white vinegar mixed in two gallons of water.



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Mildew Removal

Wash with equal parts vinegar and salt.

Mosquito Repellant

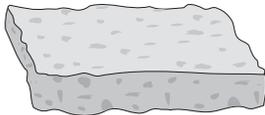
Burn citronella candles or citronella oil.

Moths *

Clean woolens before storing. Store clothes with cedar chips in cloth sachets.

Oil Stain Removal

Rub white chalk into stain before laundering.



Oven Cleaner

Clean with two tablespoons liquid soap mixed with two teaspoons of borax in warm water.

Paint Brush Softener

Soak in hot vinegar.

Paint Usage (oil-based/stain/spray)

Use water-based, non-aerosol paints.



Perspiration Stain Removal

Use white vinegar mixed in water.

Pet Odor Removal

Use cider vinegar.

Porcelain Stain Removal

Use baking soda.



Refrigerator Deodorizer

Place an open box of baking soda inside the refrigerator.

Roaches *

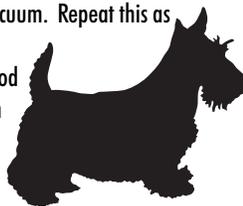
Remove all sources of food and water. Caulk or plug cracks and crevices. Only use boric acid as the last resort (a poison). Boric acid must be kept away from children and pets.

Rug/Carpet Cleaner

Use club soda.

Rug Deodorizer

Liberalily sprinkle baking soda over carpet, wait 15 to 20 minutes, then vacuum. Repeat this as necessary. This also will work as a method of flea removal with repeated use and disposal of vacuum bags.



Rust Removal (clothing)

Use lemon juice, plus salt and sunlight.

Rusty Bolt/Nut Removal

Use a carbonated beverage to loosen bolt or nut.

Scorch Mark Removal

Use a grated onion.

Scouring Powder

Use baking soda.

Shaving Cream

Use a shaving brush with shaving soap.

Slugs and Snails *

Remove tall grass and debris from the vicinity of your garden. Use beer traps or perform a late evening search and destroy.

Spot Removal.

Use club soda, lemon juice or salt.

Stainless Steel Polish

Use mineral oil.

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Use a paste of borax and lemon juice.

Tub and Tile Cleaner

Use ¼ cup of baking soda and ½ cup of white vinegar mixed in warm water.

Upholstery Spot Removal

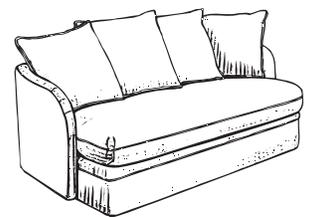
Use club soda.

Water Softener

Use ¼ cup of vinegar.

Window Cleaner

Use ¼ cup of vinegar with one quart of warm water.



* Getting rid of pests is more complicated than the "recipes" listed above. If you would like more information on getting rid of pests, please contact your County Extension Agent.