

MAKE EVERYDAY EARTHDAY

MAKE YOUR OWN ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE CLEANERS

The average American family generates approximately 21.5 pounds of household hazardous waste per year. Many cleaning products are part of this waste stream and contain chemicals that can be hazardous to us and the environment. You can help eliminate this waste and create a healthy home. Learn to clean from scratch. Take a few moments to understand the chemistry behind how the ingredients work and give one of the cleanser recipes a try.

* **Baking Soda:** Baking soda is made from soda ash, and is slightly alkaline. It neutralizes and adsorbs odors and can be used as a gentle nonabrasive cleanser.

* **White Vinegar and Lemon Juice:** White vinegar and lemon juice are acidic—they neutralize alkaline substances such as scale from hard water. Acids dissolve gummy buildup, cut grease and remove dirt from wood surfaces.

* **All-Purpose Cleaners**

- 1 gallon hot water; ½ cup borax; 1 tsp lemon juice or vinegar to cut grease.
- 2 tsp borax, 1 tsp liquid soap, 1 qt water. Store in a spray bottle.

* **Scouring Powder**

¼ cup baking soda; ¼ cup borax; 1 ½ cups hot water

* **Drain Cleaner**

½ cup baking soda; ½ cup vinegar. Pour baking soda and vinegar down the drain; cover and let sit for 10 minutes; flush drain with ½ gallon of boiling water

* **Tub and Tile Cleaner**

¼ cup baking soda, ½ cup vinegar, ½ gallon warm water. Apply with a sponge or stiff brush and one of the following if additional abrasive is needed: baking soda, borax or salt.

* **Window and Glass Cleaner**

4 cups water; 1 cup vinegar. Store in a spray bottle. For heavily soiled windows, add 2 tbsp corn starch to mixture. If unusual streaking occurs the first time you use the solution, it is due to the wax that some chemical glass cleaners contain. Remove wax with a little rubbing alcohol then clean with solution.

* **Wood Furniture/Floor Polish**

½ cup vinegar; ½ cup vegetable or mineral oil; 1 tsp lemon juice. Mix well; rub on surface; buff with clean, dry cloth.



Consider safer, cheaper alternatives made from common household ingredients . . . it's better for you and the environment.