
POLLUTION PREVENTION

Recipes for Non-Toxic Products and other alternatives

P2 Tip Recipes for Non-Toxic Household Cleaners

- Bleach: Try using a non-chlorine bleach or use borax in the laundry. Use baking soda and water on stains. These substitutes will clean, disinfect, and deodorize, and are gentle to the environment.
- Carpet Cleaner : Sprinkle carpet with 2 parts cornmeal and 1 part borax. Leave on for 1 hour, then vacuum thoroughly. Baking soda can also be used. For small spills, clean with white vinegar and soapy water.
- Drain Opener :Try using a plunger or snake first. Or pour 1/2 cup baking soda , 1/2 cup salt, and 1/4 cup vinegar – in that order – down the drain. When the fizzing stops, flush with 2 quarts boiling water. To prevent clogging in the first place, use a drain sieve and never pour grease down the drain.
- Oven Cleaner : Place 1/4 cup ammonia in a shallow, non-aluminum pan, and add enough water to cover the bottom of the pan. Heat the oven for 20 minutes, turn it off, then place the pan in it overnight. This will loosen baked on grime. Next morning, scrub oven with baking soda on a damp sponge. Be sure to turn on the fan or keep a window open while you're cleaning.

P2 Tip Recipes for Non-Toxic Insecticides

- Ants: Add some boric acid to a sugar water solution and place on trails where ants are found. Do not use where pets have access.
- Insects on Plants: Wash insects from outdoor plants with a strong hosing, preferably in the morning. For a persistent problem, use an insecticide soap. Spray infested leaves with soapy spray, then rinse off with clean water after the soap solution has dried. Caution: some plants can be damaged by soap solutions. Test on a few leaves before treating the whole plant.
- Slugs and Snails : Sink a shallow dish or empty tuna can into the ground and fill with some cheap beer. Slugs will be drawn to the beer and crawl in. Replace beer frequently. Commercial traps are also available. If you have raised beds, try tacking copper strips or placing pennies on the outer frame as a barrier. Slugs will not cross over the copper. Remember to remove slugs from within the barrier.

P2 Tip Recipes for Non-Toxic Fertilizers

- Flower Beds and Vegetable Gardens: Use compost on flower beds and vegetable gardens. Compost can be made from grass clippings, yard prunings, wood shavings, or dead leaves. Use natural soil amendments like blood meal, fish meal, fish emulsion, kelp meal, manure and compost to help supply necessary nutrients to plants. Natural soil amendments release nutrients slowly over a longer period of time than chemical fertilizers, are less likely to wash off in the rain, and are safer to store and apply than chemical fertilizers.
- Lawns: Reduce the need for lawn fertilizer by reducing the size of your lawn. Try using native plants and grasses or other types of groundcover. Mow your lawn frequently and leave the grass clippings on the lawn. Mowing height should be 2 to 3 inches. Sprinkle alfalfa pellets (rabbit food) on your lawn once a month to provide necessary nutrients.

SAFER ALTERNATIVES

Product	Alternative
Air Freshener	Baking soda, potpourri, citrus powder, essential oils, or place saucers of vinegar around the house to absorb odors
Ammonia-based Cleaner	White Vinegar in a spray bottle
Ant Poison	Clean counter tops with 1/2 vinegar and 1/2 water or Place chopped tansy or pennyroyal leaves in the area
Bleach Cleaner	Use baking soda as a souring powder or put 1/2 cup in with the laundry
Chemical Fertilizers	Compost vegetable scraps and yard waste into a naturally rich soil additive
Cockroach Poison	Mixture of chopped bay leaves and cucumber skins
Drain Opener	1. Use a plunger or plumber's snake. 2. Pour baking soda in the drain followed by equal amount of vinegar...cover 15 minutes...pour boiling water down drain (Note do no use this method if a commercial drain opener has been used and may be in drain)
Flea Collar/Spray	Brewer's yeast and garlic powder in pet's diet (call vet for proper amount)
Flea Bomb/Dust	Place a small light above a pan of water or beer. Fleas drown in liquid when jumping to light.
Fly Repellents	1. Fly swatter, 2. Mint plants set in window sills
Floor Cleaner	Mix 1/2 cup vinegar into 1 gallon of warm water
Furniture Cleaner/Polish	For wood: Wet and wring out a washcloth with water. Wipe furniture surface and dry immediately with dry cloth. For oil finished surfaces: Mix together thoroughly 3 cups olive oil and 1 cup vinegar and use a clean soft cloth to apply. For water stains: Toothpaste on a damp cloth.
Glass/Window Cleaner	Mix 1/2 cup vinegar and quart warm water. Wipe with newspaper.
Houseplant Insecticide	Mix 2 tablespoons dish washing liquid with 2 cups water and spray on leaves
Mothballs	1. Place cedar chips or blocks with clothes. 2. Clean clothes well and put in air tight storage
Paint	Use water-based or limestone-based (whitewash) instead of oil-based paint. Also choose low VOC paints
Rat Poison	Screens over drains and holes, mechanical snap traps, ultrasonic wave-emitting devices
Rust Remover	Scrub with lemon juice mixed with salt
Scouring Powder	Dip a damp cloth in baking soda and rub surface
Spot Remover	Club soda for fruit juice, tea, gravy, ketchup, and mud stains; Lemon juice for ink and perspiration stains; Beaten egg whites for leather

Check your local natural food store, drug store, and grocer for ready-made safe alternatives to most household hazardous products