



SAFER ALTERNATIVES TO HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

TODAY'S MODERN HOME IS LOADED WITH TOXIC AND POLLUTING PRODUCTS TO MAKE DOMESTIC LIFE EASIER.

The cost of these commercial, chemical-based products can be high. Long-term health concerns for the family, and environmental pollution caused by their manufacture and disposal. You can make your own cleaning products using the formulas listed below.

A growing number of commercial non-toxic home cleaning products are also available, as healthier and environmentally responsible alternatives. Your use of these products helps promote the growth of green businesses which are contributing to a sustainable economy.

<i>Substance</i>	<i>Active Ingredient/Effects</i>	<i>Safer Alternative</i>
Glass Cleaner	Ammonia: irritant, can cause chemical burns, affects mucous membranes	Vinegar and water
Drain Cleaner	Lye: very caustic, can cause chemical burns	Metal snake, or 1/4 cup baking soda, followed by 1/2 cup vinegar, flush with boiling water when fizzing stops
Toilet Cleaner	Chlorine and hydrochloric acid: irritant, causes burns, toxic	2-3 teaspoons borax and liquid dish soap in 2 quarts warm water
Furniture Cleaner	Petroleum distillates, nitrobenzene: flammable, toxic	One part lemon juice to two parts olive or vegetable oil
Mothballs	P-dichlorobenzene: a know carcinogen	Cedar blocks or chips, store clean woolens in airtight container or bag
Silver Polish	Sulfuric acid, acidified thiourea: causes burns, toxic	Soak in boiling water with 1 tsp. baking soda, 1 tsp. salt with a piece of aluminum foil
Insecticides	Various chemicals: some quite toxic	Roaches: boric acid powder or baking soda & powdered sugar Ants: red chili powder or cream of tartar on entry path Garden: mild insecticidal soaps, organic controls
Batteries	Corrosive, toxic, contain heavy metals	Use rechargeable batteries when feasible.
Paint Solvents and Thinners	Flammable, toxic	Use latex paints. If cleaning brushes, let paint settle to bottom of closed jar, pour off clear solvent and reuse. Any rinse water should not be disposed of on the ground or into a storm drain.

For more information:

[How to Properly Dispose of Paint](#)

[How Can You Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste in Humboldt County](#)

[What to do About Household Chemicals](#)

