

## **Eco-Safe Alternatives for Household Cleaners**

**Abrasive Cleaner** – mix water and baking soda to make a scouring agent for sinks, toilets, oven, and pots.

**Floor or Furniture Polish** – mix 1 tablespoon lemon oil in one pint mineral oil or mix 1 part lemon juice to 2 parts olive oil.

**Glass Cleaner** – combine 2 tablespoons white vinegar with 1 quart water in a spray bottle. Spray on and wipe off with newspaper or cloth rag.

**Drain Cleaner** – prevent drain from clogging by using baking soda + vinegar. If it should clog use plunger, flush with boiling water and add  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of baking soda and 2 ounces of vinegar.

**Toilet Cleaner** – scrub with toilet brush and baking soda. Occasionally use the following disinfectant.

**Disinfectant** – use  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup borax in 1 gallon of water.

**Rug and Upholstery Cleaner** – sprinkle dry cornstarch on the rug and vacuum.

**Stain Remover** – scrub stain with a wet paste of water and baking soda (or cornstarch).

**Mildew Remover** – lemon juice (or white vinegar) and salt.

**Silver Polish** – Soak in 1 quart of warm water with 1 teaspoon of baking soda + a small piece of aluminum + a tablespoon of salt.

**Oil Stain Remover** – white chalk rubbed into stain before laundering.

**Spot Remover** – club soda or lemon juice.

**Oven Cleaner** – 2 tablespoons liquid soap + 2 teaspoons borax + warm water.

**Paint Brush Softener** – Hot vinegar.

**Mothballs** – Cedar or lavender sachets.

**Spray Starch** – Combine and mix thoroughly 1 tablespoon of cornstarch with 2 cups of water. Spray on and iron.

**Driveway Salt** – Use cat litter or sand (Place a shoe scrubber by the door so that you do not track sand through the house).

**Bug Repellent (for body)** – boil 1 cup water and add 2 teaspoons of chamomile + 2 orange rinds; then let this cool over night, strain, and sponge on. (For extra protection add 2-3 drops of citronella or pennyroyal essential oil.)

**Mosquito Repellent (for outdoors)** – burn citronella and plant tansy or basil around the patio.

**House Plant Insecticide** – Spray a mixture of bar soap and water or dishwater on the leaves and rinse.

**Ant Repellent** – block their path with a line of chalk, paprika, chili, or cayenne pepper.

**Roach Repellent** – mix together 2 tablespoons flour, 4 tablespoons borax, and 1 tablespoon cocoa. Set mixture out in dishes. (Caution: Borax is toxic if eaten. Keep out of reach of children and pets.) Mix equal parts of baking soda and powdered sugar and spread around infested area.

**Slugs and Snails** – set out saucers or jars full of stale beer and place them below ground level near the garden. The fermented liquid draws them in and they drown.

**Moles** – whip together 1 tablespoon castor oil and 2 tablespoons liquid detergent in a blender until the mixture resembles shaving cream. Add 6 tablespoons water and whip again. (Caution: Keep this solution out of reach of children and pets.)

**Weed Killer** – pull weeds by hand.

**Remember:** Never mix chlorine bleach with other chemicals including toilet bowl cleaners, ammonia, rust removers, or acids (such as vinegar or lemon juice) because poisonous gases are formed.