



Our thanks to Keep Nebraska Beautiful
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Alternatives"

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Household Hazardous Waste:

LESS TOXIC ALTERNATIVES

Hazardous Household Products

Hazardous chemical products can be found in almost every home in Nebraska. Such products include furniture polish, glue, shoe polish, bug sprays, disinfectants, and window cleaners. A substance is labeled as hazardous if it can catch fire, if it will react or explode when mixed with other substances, or if it is corrosive or toxic.

Less Toxic Alternatives

There are alternatives to buying these hazardous substances. By using the alternatives listed in this brochure, you can help keep toxic wastes out of the environment, save time involved with proper disposal, and save money.

Air Freshener/Deodorizer

Carpets:

Mix 1 part borax to 2 parts cornmeal; sprinkle liberally on carpet and vacuum after 1 hour.

Garbage cans:

Sprinkle baking soda in bottom of can.

Garbage disposal:

Grind used lemons or peels in the disposal or pour baking soda into the drain.

Litter box:

Sprinkle baking soda on the bottom of the litter pan before adding litter.

Other:

- ◆ Leave open boxes of baking soda in refrigerator, freezer, closets, and bathrooms.
- ◆ Saturate a cottonball with vanilla and place in an open container in a room or in an auto.
- ◆ Set out an open container of white vinegar to destroy odors.
- ◆ Simmer cinnamon and cloves or potpourri.
- ◆ Burn scented candles.
- ◆ Fill your favorite vase with fresh-cut flowers.



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Carpet, Rug & Upholstery

- ◆ Use a non-aerosol, soap-based cleaner.
- ◆ Clean spills immediately with club soda.
- ◆ Mix a quart of water, a teaspoon of mild liquid soap, a teaspoon of borax and a squeeze of lemon juice or splash of vinegar; apply with a damp cloth or sponge and rub gently; wipe with a clean cloth and allow to dry.
- ◆ To clean a red wine spill, rub a thick layer of salt on the spill. Sponge up after spill has been absorbed.

Cleaners

Coffee Pots:

Clean out coffee pots with white vinegar solution.

Dishes:

By hand Use 1/2 cup of baking soda with a mild dishwashing liquid to help cut grease and food. *Automatic dishwashers* Choose a detergent with the lowest phosphate content listed on the package.



Disinfectant:

Use 1/2 cup borax to each gallon of water. To inhibit mold and mildew, do not rinse solution.

General Cleaner:

Dissolve baking soda in water.

Glass Cleaner:

Combine a quart of water with 1/2 cup white vinegar, 2 tablespoons of lemon juice or 1-2 tablespoons of rubbing alcohol.

Grout:

Combine 3 cups baking soda and 1 cup warm water; scrub into grout. Rinse well.

Kitchen Degreaser:

Use a non-chlorinated powder with a nylon scouring pad or fine steel wool.

Mildew Cleaners:

Scrub mildew spots with baking soda or borax, or sponge with white vinegar, or use a paste of lemon juice or white vinegar and salt.

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Metal Polishes

Brass and Copper:

Use a paste of lemon juice and salt.

Silver:

Rub with toothpaste or baking soda and a soft cloth; rinse and polish dry with clean cloth.

Chrome:

Wipe with apple cider vinegar and rinse or shine chrome fixtures with baby oil and soft cloth.



Oven Cleaners:

Use an oven cleaner that does not contain lye or scrub spots with a baking soda, salt and water paste.

Painted Wood:

Wash with 1 teaspoon of washing soda in a gallon of hot water.

Surface Cleaner:

Mix vinegar with salt and water.

Toilet Bowl Cleaner:

Scrub with a solution of 1/2 cup borax in a gallon of water for cleaning and disinfecting; clean frequently with a baking soda solution around the rim.

Scouring Powder:

Use baking soda or salt, or a non-chlorinated commercial scouring powder.

Drain Openers

To unclog a drain:

Pour 1/4 cup of baking soda down the drain, followed by 1/2 cup of white vinegar. Let sit for a few minutes, then pour a pan of boiling water down the drain to flush.

To help prevent drains from getting blocked:

Once a week, pour 1/4 cup of salt down the drain, followed by boiling water.

Laundry Products

To whiten clothes:

Use a washing soda or non-chlorine bleach

To remove spots and brighten colors:

Use 1/2 cup of borax in each load.

Detergents:

Use a synthetic detergent without adding fabric softeners or bleach. Or use products which include washing soda. Washing soda brightens fabrics and costs less than bleach.

To freshen and soften clothes:

Add a cup of vinegar or 1/4 cup of baking soda during final rinse.



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To reduce static cling:

Dampen hands when folding clothes.

Pre-soaking:

Soak heavily soiled items in warm water with 1/2 cup of washing soda for 30 minutes, or rub soiled areas with a mild liquid soap.

Spray starch for regular fabrics:

Mix 2 tablespoons cornstarch and a pint of cold water in a spray bottle.

Spray starch for delicate fabrics:

Mix a package of unflavored gelatin with 2 cups of hot water in a spray bottle. Test solution on corner of fabric before using. If fabric becomes sticky when dry, add more water.

Floor Polishes/Wax

Vinyl Floors:

Combine 1/4 cup TSP (trisodium phosphate), 1/4 cup borax or 1/2 cup white vinegar with a gallon of warm water.

Wood Floors:

Use damp mop with a mild vegetable oil soap, dry immediately.

Painted or Finished Wood:

Combine a teaspoon of washing soda and a gallon of hot water, dry floor immediately.

Wood Floors (sealed with polyurethane):

Clean with 1/4 cup white vinegar and a gallon of water; dry immediately.

Furniture Polish

Finished Wood:

Use a mild vegetable oil soap, or combine 1 part lemon juice with 2 parts vegetable or olive oil and polish with a clean, soft cloth.

Painted Wood:

Mix 1 tsp. of washing soda in a gallon of hot water.

Unfinished Wood:

Polish with mineral oil.



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Insect Bites

Bee Stings:

Apply a thick paste of baking soda and water or rub with an onion cut in half.

Chiggers:

Rub area with a moist aspirin tablet.

General insect bites:

To relieve itching, rub area with apple cider vinegar or baking soda paste.

Mosquitoes:

Soak bites in salt water, then apply cold cream.



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