

Hazardous Household Products and Safer Alternatives



Potentially dangerous chemicals can be found in every room in your home. Here are some more natural alternatives that are good for you and the environment.

Potentially Hazardous Product	Safer Alternative
Aphid Killer	Spray thoroughly with water. Repeat three times weekly.
Aerosol Spray	Use non-aerosol, pump-type sprays.
Ant Control	Mix borax, sugar and water on a cotton ball.
Bathroom Cleaner	Mix baking soda and castile soap. Scrub.
Bug Spray	Use essential oils such as citronella or clove.
Chemical Fertilizers	Use compost or coffee grounds, bone meal and wood ashes.
Copper Cleaner	Scrub with vinegar and salt. Rinse well.
Deodorizers/Air Fresheners	Simmer cinnamon and cloves.
Drain Openers	Baking soda and vinegar, followed by boiling water. Or, use a plumber's snake.
Flea Repellent	Use a flea comb. Bathe pet weekly. Feed pet Brewer's yeast, vitamin B or garlic cloves.
Floor Cleaner	Vinegar and water.
Furniture Polish	For unvarnished surfaces, mix lemon juice and vegetable oil.
Glass and Window Cleaner	Vinegar and water.
Laundry Detergent	Use washing soda, or a non-phosphate concentrate.
Oven Cleaners	Washing soda.
Oil or Solvent-Based Paint	Water-based or Latex paints.
Rat/Mouse Poison	Snap or live traps.
Rug/Upholstery Cleaner	Club Soda
Scouring Powders	Baking soda or borax. Rinse thoroughly.
Slug/Snail Bait	Pan with beer or slug hotel.
Toilet Bowl Cleaner	Baking soda and castile soap.
Weed Killer	Pull by hand or use a weed puller. Vinegar in a spray bottle may work for some weeds.

The City of Olympia is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in the employment and the delivery of services and resources.