

Watch for this symbol when you shop.
Products identified with this symbol are
considered household hazardous materials.
Buy a safer alternative whenever possible.



Elliot Mess' Safer Solutions...

All-Purpose Household Cleaner

1 quart warm water
1 tsp. liquid soap
1 tsp. borax
squeeze of lemon or splash of vinegar
This solution can be used for a multitude of cleaning jobs including countertops, floors, walls, rugs and upholstery.

Air Freshener

- Leave open boxes of baking soda in refrigerators, closets and bathrooms.
- Open doors and windows for good ventilation. Use stove fan when cooking.
- Use flowers, herbs and spices to add subtle fragrances to indoor air.

Drain Opener

1/2 cup baking soda
1 cup vinegar
boiling water
Dissolve baking soda and vinegar in boiling water, and pour the solution down the drain. Continue to flush with hot tap water until the clog breaks.

Degreaser (engine and tool)

Use a water-based cleaner in place of kerosene, turpentine and commercial engine degreaser.

Degreaser (kitchen)

Use a nonchlorinated scouring powder with abrasive scouring pad or fine steel wool.

Disinfectant

Use 1/2 cup borax in 1 gallon hot water. To inhibit mold and mildew, do not rinse off borax solution.

Floor Cleaner

- Vinyl floors: 1/2 cup vinegar or 1/4 cup borax with 1 gallon water. Polish with club soda.
- Wood floors: damp mop with mild vegetable oil soap.

Furniture Polish

1 pint mineral oil with a few drops of lemon juice.

Glass Cleaner

1/4 cup vinegar in 1 quart warm water. (Do not use this as a windshield wiper solution as it may damage the pump -- use plain water for this purpose.)

Mildew Cleaner

Scrub with baking soda or borax; for extended mold inhibition, do not rinse off.

Oven Cleaner

- Scrub with 2 tbsp. or more of baking soda or borax in 1 gallon water, using very fine steel wool (0000). Wear gloves. For very baked-on spots, try scrubbing with pumice (available at hardware stores).
- As a last resort, use a pump oven cleaner that says, "No caustic fumes" and "No lye."

Rug and Upholstery Cleaner

Use the All-Purpose Household Cleaner.

Scouring Powder

Use baking soda or a nonchlorinated commercial scouring powder.

Spot Removers

- All-purpose: 1/4 cup borax in 2 cups cold water; soak the stain prior to washing as usual.
- Blood: Pour 3 percent hydrogen peroxide solution directly on the stain, rinse with water and wash as usual.
- Ink: Apply a paste of lemon juice and cream of tartar; allow it to dry, then wash as usual.

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Scrub with baking soda or mild detergent.

Tub/Tile Cleaners

Use scouring powder or baking soda.

WARNING: Borax is the most caustic of the cleaners on this list. Store it with special care in cabinets out of the reach of children, and dilute well before use. Latex gloves are advisable.

For more information call
your local solid waste
officials or
515-281-4DNR



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