ENVIRONMENTAL
Fact Sheet

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Services

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Alternative Household Products

Part of pollution prevention is "product substitution," that is, using a less toxic or non-toxic product to create a less toxic or non-toxic waste. The following is a partial list of substitutions to consider as alternatives to the toxic products you may be presently using.

AIR FRESHENER: Simmer cloves and cinnamon in boiling water. Leave an opened box of baking soda in room. Set out a dish of vinegar.

ANT CONTROL: Mix 2 Tbs. boric acid, 2 Tbs. sugar and 1 cup water. Soak paper towels, place on dishes, and set out for ants. Pour a line of cream of tartar where ants enter. Put a light coating of petroleum jelly around the base of your pet's feeding dish to keep ants out.

CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANER: Clean stains immediately with club soda. Sprinkle cornstarch on rug and vacuum. Use soap-based, non-aerosol rug shampoo.

CHROME CLEANER: Use baking soda and a dry cloth.

DRAIN OPENER: Use a plunger or mechanical snake. Pour ½ cup washing soda into drain, then pour 2 cups boiling water into drain. Flush drain weekly with boiling water.

FLEA & TICK REPELLENT: Scatter pine needles, fennel, rue or rosemary on pet's bed. Feed pet brewer's yeast, vitamin B or garlic tablets.

FURNITURE POLISH: Mix 2 parts vegetable oil and 1 part lemon juice. Apply, rub in, wipe clean.

GLASS CLEANER: Mix equal parts water and vinegar in a spray bottle. Spray surface and wipe with cloth towel.

INSECT SPRAY FOR PLANTS: Blend 6 cloves crushed garlic, 1 minced onion, 1 Tbs. dried hot pepper and 1 Tbs. pure soap in 1 gallon of hot water. Let sit 1 to 2 days; strain and use.

LAUNDRY PRESOAK: Make paste of baking soda and water; apply to dirty spots.

METAL CLEANER: Make paste of salt, vinegar and flour. Start with a half-cup of salt, add enough vinegar to dissolve, add flour to create a damp paste.

MILDEW REMOVER: Dissolve ½ cup Borax and ½ cup vinegar in warm water.

MOTHBALLS: Wrap dried lavender or cedar chips into small towels or cloth bags and place with clothes.

MULTI-PURPOSE CLEANER: Mix ½ cup ammonia, $^1/_3$ cup vinegar and $^1/_4$ cup baking soda in 1 gallon of warm water.

PORCELAIN CLEANER: Make paste from baking soda and water; apply to stain, let set, rub clean, rinse.

SEPTIC SYSTEM CLEANER: Use professional service every 2 to 3 years. Chemical treatments don't work; some can actually harm your system.

SHOWER HEAD CLEANER: Pour ½ cup vinegar into 1 quart water. Put shower head in mixture and boil for five minutes

SILVER POLISH: Soak silver in a quart warm water containing 1 tsp. baking soda, 1 tsp. salt and a piece of aluminum foil.

TAPE ADDHESIVE REMOVER: Cover the tape residue with generous amounts of peanut butter. Let sit for five minutes and wipe clean with warm water.

WINDOW CLEANER: Use ½ cup vinegar in 1 gallon of warm water. Use lemon juice and dry soft cloth. Use newspaper to dry glass.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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