

Alternative household Products

Part of pollution prevention is “product substitution,” that is, using less toxic or non-toxic product to create a less toxic or non-toxic waste. The following is a partial list of substitutions you may consider to replace some of the toxic products you may presently be using. For more ideas try searching the web, contacting the NH Department of Environmental Services or ask a neighbor.

- **Air Freshener Alternatives** - Simmer cloves and cinnamon in boiling water; Leave opened box of baking soda in room; Set out a dish of vinegar.
- **Ant Control Alternatives** – Mix 2 Tbls. Boric acid, 2 Tbls. Sugar and 1 cup water. Soak paper towels, place on dishes, set out for ants; Pour a line of cream of tartar where ants enter.
- **Carpet and Upholstery Cleaner Alternatives** – Clean stains immediately with club soda; Sprinkle cornstarch on rug and vacuum; Use soap-based, non-aerosol rug shampoo.
- **Chrome Cleaner Alternative** – Use baking soda and a dry cloth.
- **Drain Opener Alternative** – Use a plunger or mechanical snake.
- **Flea and Tick Repellent Alternatives** – Scatter pine needles, fennel, rue or rosemary on pet’s bed; Feed pet brewer’s yeast, vitamin B or garlic tablets. (Make sure to check with your local veterinary before feeding your pet any products.)
- **Furniture Polish Alternative** – Mix 2 parts vegetable oil and 1 part lemon juice. Apply, rub in, wipe clean.
- **Insect Spray for Plants Alternatives** – Blend 6 cloves crushed garlic, 1 minced onion, 1 Tbls. dried hot pepper and 1 Tbls. pure soap in 1 gallon hot water. Let sit 1 to 2 days; strain and use.
- **Laundry Presoak Alternative** – Make paste of washing soda and water; apply to dirty spots.
- **Metal Cleaner Alternative**– Make paste of salt, vinegar and flour. Start with ¼ cup of salt, add enough vinegar to dissolve, add flour to create a damp paste.
- **Moth Balls Alternative** – Sew dried lavender or cedar chips into small cloth bags and place with clothes.
- **Multi-Purpose Cleaner Alternative** – Mix ½ cup of ammonia, 1/3 cup of vinegar and ¼ cup baking soda in 1 gallon of warm water.
- **Porcelain Cleaner Alternative** – Make paste from baking soda and water; apply to stain, let set, rub clean, rinse.
- **Septic System Cleaner Alternative** – Use professional service every 2 to 3 years; Chemical treatments don’t work; some actually harm your system.
- **Silver Polish Alternative** – Soak silver in 1 quart warm water containing 1 tsp. baking soda, 1 tsp. salt and a piece of aluminum foil.
- **Window Cleaner Alternatives** – Use ½ cup vinegar in 1 gallon of warm water; Use lemon juice and dry soft cloth; Use newspaper to dry glass.