

Alternative Recipes for Common Household Products

Did you know a lot of common household products are toxic to our health? These toxic chemicals may cause immediate irritations to skin, eyes, or nose and possible long-term health issues. Using homemade chemical-free cleansers is a safe way to keep things fresh and sanitary especially if you have children or pets at home or allergies.

Public Works provides a [list](#) of alternative household product recipes - from automotive care to cleansers to stain removers - using everyday non-toxic items we already have on our pantry shelves. These homemade household products are not only better for our health but can also help us save money and protect the environment. Making your own products cuts down on packaging waste and reduces the release of household chemicals. Here are a few tips for preparing your own alternative products:

(Disclaimer: Results may vary. Test recipe effectiveness by applying a small amount of product to an area before using.)

AUTOMOTIVE CARE

Windshield Cleaner

- *Club soda*

Spray on the windshield and wipe dry. Not recommended for use in the vehicle's windshield-spray reservoir because it could freeze.

BATHROOM

Bathtub/Sink Stains

Scrub with paste made from *cream of tartar* and *hydrogen peroxide*.

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

- *½ teaspoon sodium lauryl sulfate*
- *2 tablespoons baking soda*
- *2 tablespoons vinegar*
- *1 teaspoon orange essential oil or 1 teaspoon grapefruit essential oil (optional)*
- *2 cups water*

Mix all ingredients. Vinegar and baking soda will foam when mixed. Let mixture stand for 10 minutes before pouring into a spray bottle.

KITCHEN

Spray Disinfectant Cleaner

- *½ cup borax*
- *1 gallon hot water*

Dissolve borax in hot water. Wipe down areas to be disinfected.

Abrasive Cleaner

- *Baking soda or borax*
- *Juice from ½ lemon*

Sprinkle baking soda or borax, add lemon juice and scrub.

PEST REPELLENTS

Ant Repellent

Sprinkle *red chili powder*, *cream of tartar powder*, *salt* or *sage* near ant infestations.

Insecticide

Mix *dishwashing liquid* and *water*, spray infected area.

STAIN REMOVERS

All-purpose Spot Remover

- *¼ cup borax*
- *2 cups cold water*

Dissolve borax in cold water. Sponge it on and let it sit until dry. Wash with soap and water to completely remove spot. Works well on blood, chocolate, coffee, mildew, mud and urine.

Ink Spot Remover

- *Cream of tartar*
- *Lemon juice*
- *Warm water*

Put cream of tartar on the stain and squeeze a few drops of lemon juice on top. Rub into the stain for a minute, brush off the powder with a clean brush and sponge immediately with warm water. Repeat if needed.

For a complete list of alternative recipes for common household products, visit https://pw.lacounty.gov/epd/hhw/alternative_recipes.pdf or visit CleanLA.com.

