



Pesticides

Fleas on pets

½ Tbs. Brewer's yeast

or

Garlic powder added to pet food

Flies

Beat 1 egg yolk with 1 Tbs. each of molasses and fine ground black pepper. Place in shallow dish.

Roaches

Sprinkle boric acid on areas where roaches move. **Caution:** Boric acid is safer than many pesticides, but can be toxic. Keep out of the reach of children.

White flies, aphids, red spider

Mix 2-3 bulbs of garlic, chopped with 1 Tbs. vegetable oil, ¼ cup soap flakes and 2 cups boiling water. Strain mixture, add to 2 gallons of water and spray on plants.

Slugs, snails

Pour beer in saucer where creatures travel.

or

Sprinkle salt on creatures.

or

Leave grapefruit or orange skins overnight.

or

Sprinkle ashes around bases of plants.

Mice

Place mashed potato powder near dish of water.

Wasps

Spray with non-aerosol hair spray.

Ants

Sprinkle Borax around anthills.

Moths

Clean clothes and furniture thoroughly; store clothes in air tight containers. Use cedar chips or a cedar chest to repel moths.

Pesticide Ideas for Gardening

Companion planting

Because some pests dislike certain plants, you can plant pest-susceptible plants next to those pests dislike. Ask at your local garden center about which plants ward off which pests. An example is planting chives (wards off aphids) next to roses.

Nature's predator pesticides

Spiders, ladybugs, snakes, and praying mantises will eat destructive pests, so let these friends live and help your garden.

Weeds

Mulching with compost or sawdust will control weeds while enriching the soil. (Use untreated wood sawdust.)



For more information about safe alternatives, contact the EPA office listed in your local phone book.

Call toll-free 1-816-561-1087 to join *Environmental Excellence*.

You will receive Simple Steps to improve the environment and a chance to receive our informational newsletter with even more good ideas!



Bridging The Gap®



Pesticides

Fleas on pets

½ Tbs. Brewer's yeast

or

Garlic powder added to pet food

Flies

Beat 1 egg yolk with 1 Tbs. each of molasses and fine ground black pepper. Place in shallow dish.

Roaches

Sprinkle boric acid on areas where roaches move. **Caution:** Boric acid is safer than many pesticides, but can be toxic. Keep out of the reach of children.

White flies, aphids, red spider

Mix 2-3 bulbs of garlic, chopped with 1 Tbs. vegetable oil, ¼ cup soap flakes and 2 cups boiling water. Strain mixture, add to 2 gallons of water and spray on plants.

Slugs, snails

Pour beer in saucer where creatures travel.

or

Sprinkle salt on creatures.

or

Leave grapefruit or orange skins overnight.

or

Sprinkle ashes around bases of plants.

Mice

Place mashed potato powder near dish of water.

Wasps

Spray with non-aerosol hair spray.

Ants

Sprinkle Borax around anthills.

Moths

Clean clothes and furniture thoroughly; store clothes in air tight containers. Use cedar chips or a cedar chest to repel moths.

Pesticide Ideas for Gardening

Companion planting

Because some pests dislike certain plants, you can plant pest-susceptible plants next to those pests dislike. Ask at your local garden center about which plants ward off which pests. An example is planting chives (wards off aphids) next to roses.

Nature's predator pesticides

Spiders, ladybugs, snakes, and praying mantises will eat destructive pests, so let these friends live and help your garden.

Weeds

Mulching with compost or sawdust will control weeds while enriching the soil. (Use untreated wood sawdust.)



For more information about safe alternatives, contact the EPA office listed in your local phone book.

Call toll-free 1-816-561-1087 to join *Environmental Excellence*.

You will receive Simple Steps to improve the environment and a chance to receive our informational newsletter with even more good ideas!



Bridging The Gap®

Safer Alternatives to Hazardous Household Products

Safer Alternatives to Hazardous Household Products



Baking soda, Borax, soap, sodium carbonate, and white vinegar are used in many of the following recipes and are great safe alternatives for making your own household products.

Sometimes the best alternative is to eliminate the need for a toxic household product. For instance, opening windows in fair weather can eliminate the need for air fresheners.

General Needs and Cleaners

All Purpose Cleaner

½ gallon water and ¼ cup baking soda
or

½ cup vinegar and ½ Tbs. salt

Air Freshener

Place 2 to 4 Tbs. baking soda *or* vinegar in small bowls in refrigerator and around the house.

Scouring Powder

½ cup baking soda
or

½ cup table salt

Furniture Polish

¼ cup vegetable *or* mineral oil and 1/8 cup lemon juice

or

1 cup linseed oil, 1½ cups vinegar and ½ cup rubbing alcohol

Silver Polish

Baking soda and water *or* toothpaste

Copper cleaner

¼ cup salt, ¼ cup flour and ¼ cup vinegar

Fabric Softener

½ cup vinegar in rinse cycle

Blood Stains

Use soap *or* Borax to rub on spot after soaking stain in cold water for 30 minutes. Rinse with cold water. If stubborn, repeat using a few drops of ammonia.

Stains (chocolate, fruit, wine, coffee)

Soak in cold water, rub soap into stain, wash using the hottest water that will not damage the fabric.

Lipstick Stains

Use cold cream *or* shortening to dissolve color, rinse with warm water and soda mix. Wash using the hottest water that will not damage the fabric.

Soiled Diapers

Saturate with lemon juice, rub with salt. Hang in direct sunlight until dry, then wash as normal.

Window and Glass Cleaner

2 Tbs. vinegar to 1 quart water
or

2 Tbs. lemon juice to 1 gallon of water

Wood floor cleaner

1½ cups vinegar, 1 cup linseed oil and ½ cup rubbing alcohol

Tub and Tile Cleaner

Baking soda and vinegar

Drain Cleaner

1 cup boiling water and cup vinegar and 1/8 cup table salt

Chrome cleaner

Mix peanut butter and baking soda. Rub over chrome.

Disinfectant

Baking Soda

or

1/2 cup Borax and 1 gallon hot water

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Baking soda and water

or

Borax and lemon juice

Laundry Detergent

Ivory soap flakes

or

Borax Laundry Formula



Baking soda, Borax, soap, sodium carbonate, and white vinegar are used in many of the following recipes and are great safe alternatives for making your own household products.

Sometimes the best alternative is to eliminate the need for a toxic household product. For instance, opening windows in fair weather can eliminate the need for air fresheners.

General Needs and Cleaners

All Purpose Cleaner

½ gallon water and ¼ cup baking soda
or

½ cup vinegar and ½ Tbs. salt

Air Freshener

Place 2 to 4 Tbs. baking soda *or* vinegar in small bowls in refrigerator and around the house.

Scouring Powder

½ cup baking soda
or

½ cup table salt

Furniture Polish

¼ cup vegetable *or* mineral oil and 1/8 cup lemon juice

or

1 cup linseed oil, 1½ cups vinegar and ½ cup rubbing alcohol

Silver Polish

Baking soda and water *or* toothpaste

Copper cleaner

¼ cup salt, ¼ cup flour and ¼ cup vinegar

Fabric Softener

½ cup vinegar in rinse cycle

Blood Stains

Use soap *or* Borax to rub on spot after soaking stain in cold water for 30 minutes. Rinse with cold water. If stubborn, repeat using a few drops of ammonia.

Stains (chocolate, fruit, wine, coffee)

Soak in cold water, rub soap into stain, wash using the hottest water that will not damage the fabric.

Lipstick Stains

Use cold cream *or* shortening to dissolve color, rinse with warm water and soda mix. Wash using the hottest water that will not damage the fabric.

Soiled Diapers

Saturate with lemon juice, rub with salt. Hang in direct sunlight until dry, then wash as normal.

Window and Glass Cleaner

2 Tbs. vinegar to 1 quart water
or

2 Tbs. lemon juice to 1 gallon of water

Wood floor cleaner

1½ cups vinegar, 1 cup linseed oil and ½ cup rubbing alcohol

Tub and Tile Cleaner

Baking soda and vinegar

Drain Cleaner

1 cup boiling water and cup vinegar and 1/8 cup table salt

Chrome cleaner

Mix peanut butter and baking soda. Rub over chrome.

Disinfectant

Baking Soda

or

1/2 cup Borax and 1 gallon hot water

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Baking soda and water

or

Borax and lemon juice

Laundry Detergent

Ivory soap flakes

or

Borax Laundry Formula