

GREEN CLEANING

Many everyday household products contain hazardous chemicals. When you dispose of these products in the storm drain, sink or garbage, the chemicals can end up in local water bodies or groundwater. This list of alternatives is provided to help you make responsible decisions about the safe use and disposal of household products. By trying some or all of the alternatives, you will help Marion County move toward a goal of hazard-less waste.

These few supplies can replace many cleaners:

Baking soda	Borax	Lemon juice
White vinegar	Salt	Club soda
Olive oil	Cornstarch	Rubbing alcohol



DIY GREEN CLEANING RECIPES

All-purpose cleaner	2 cups Water, 1 cup Hydrogen Peroxide, ¼ cup Lemon Juice
Brass polish	Paste of equal parts vinegar, salt and flour. Be sure to rinse thoroughly.
Car battery corrosion removal	Baking soda and water
Chrome polish	Vinegar
Coffee cup stain removal	Rub with moist salt or baking soda.
Copper cleaner	Add lemon juice and salt. Leave for a few minutes. Scour and rinse thoroughly.
Crayon mark remover	Rub mark with toothpaste and a damp cloth. Do not use on non-vinyl wallpaper.
Decal removal	Soak in hot water if practical; otherwise use white vinegar.
Dishwashing	Washing dishes by hand with a liquid soap or mild detergent is preferable to using strong electric dishwasher detergents. Look for detergents without phosphates or chlorine.
Disinfectants	Mix 1/2 cup borax with 1 gallon of boiling water. Or undiluted white vinegar.
Drain cleaner	Try plunger first. Then pour 1/2 cup baking soda down, then 1/2 cup vinegar; wait a few minutes, then follow with 2 quarts boiling water. Repeat if needed. If this fails, rent or buy a drain snake. Use solution weekly to prevent buildup.

Furniture polish	Olive oil or almond oil
Garbage disposal	Used lemons or baking soda
Grout and stain cleaner	Paste made of baking soda and water, clean with toothbrush, spray with vinegar and water mix and after foaming is finished, rinse with water.
Laundry detergent	1/2 cup white vinegar or baking soda or borax per load. Or laundry soap or a liquid detergent with low or no phosphate. A tablespoon of vinegar in the rinse increases the brightness.
Linoleum floor cleaner	1 cup white vinegar plus 2 gallons water
Linoleum floor polish	Polish with skim milk (it doesn't smell, milk evaporates!)
Mildew remover	A non-chlorinated scouring powder cleans mildew stains from grout. Scrub hard.
Moths (in clothes)	Thoroughly clean any used clothing or furniture before introducing into home. Wash woolens before storing; store in tight container with cedar chips, newspapers or lavender flowers (instead of mothballs). Vacuum rugs, behind and under furniture. Shake out woolens periodically.
Oven cleaner	As a preventive measure, cover the oven bottom with a sheet of aluminum foil. Clean up spills promptly. To clean, use baking soda, soap and water with a copper scrubber and lots of elbow grease. Or use a non-chlorinated scouring powder or non-caustic oven cleaner.
Paint (oil-based)	Rub with olive oil, peanut butter, or mineral oil.
Refrigerator deodorizer	Open box of baking soda
Rug/carpet cleaner	Sprinkle baking soda, then vacuum. Or clean immediately with soda water or baking soda
Silver cleaner	Rub gently with baking soda and damp sponge (large objects). For small objects place in pot of water on stove with small piece of aluminum foil; add 1 tsp baking soda and 1 tsp salt; boil 2-3 minutes. Or rub gently with toothpaste on a cotton ball.
Stain removal	Depends on type of spill. Treat as quickly as possible and blot as much liquid as you can with paper towel or cloth (don't rub). For most stains, safest to try cold water first, then hot water with a little detergent.
Stainless steel cleaner	Baking soda
Toilet bowl cleaner	Baking soda or borax or soak with white vinegar
Tub and tile cleaner	Use vinegar (full-strength) on a sponge, then use baking soda as a scouring powder. Rinse well.
Vinyl floor cleaner	1 gallon warm water and 1/2 cup white vinegar or 1/4 cup borax
Wine stain removal	Water or rubbing alcohol
Window cleaner	1/2 cup vinegar in 1 quart warm water, wipe with crumpled newspaper.



Keep your home and workplace
CLEAN & GREEN

Look for these labels:




