

Alternatives for Hazardous Household Products

If you use up or dispose of this product...

You can replace it by doing this...

Rug or Upholstery Cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sprinkle stains with dry cornstarch or baking soda and vacuum. • Use soap-based, non-aerosol cleaners.
Glass Cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use 2 teaspoons white distilled vinegar in 1 cup warm water.
Furniture Polish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use mineral oil. • Use a mixture of 2 parts olive or vegetable oil and 1 part lemon juice. Heat the mixture and cool before using.
Metal Polishes for Copper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rub with a paste of equal parts flour, salt, and white vinegar or lemon juice. Rinse.
Metal Polishes for Copper and Silver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polish with non-gel toothpaste. • Scrub with a paste of equal parts of baking soda, soap, and water.
General Cleaners and Disinfectants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a water-dampened cloth. • Mix 1/2 cup borax in 1 gallon hot water. Cool before using.
Toilet Bowl Cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mix 1/2 cup borax in 1 gallon hot water. Cool before using.
Tub and Tile Cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrub with baking soda or a combination of cream of tartar and 3% non-bleaching hydrogen peroxide.
Oven Cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place a shallow pan of water in heated oven. The steam will loosen the grime. • Warm the oven. Moisten spills and sprinkle with baking soda, salt, or a nontoxic abrasive (if the oven is not self- or continuous-cleaning). Scrub.
Drain opener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a plunger. • Pour in 1/2 cup vinegar and 1 cup baking soda. Cover tightly for 1 minute and follow with boiling water.
Roach Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mix 1 part borax or boric acid, 1 part flour, and 1 part sugar and set out in warm, dark places. Replace periodically. • Seal all cracks and crevices.
Mothballs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use fresh cedar chips or balls or use lavender flowers.
Ant Repellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash countertops with a mixture of equal parts vinegar and water. • Plant mint around your house. • Scatter coffee grounds around the outside of the house. • Bait ant hills with corn meal. • Use boric acid for ants, roaches, and other crawling insects.
Aphid Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a few drops of liquid dishwasher soap in a quart of water and spray on plants. • Add ladybugs to your garden.
Flea and Tick Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed brewer's yeast and garlic to pets. • Add 1 teaspoon vinegar to 1 quart water per 40 pounds pet weight and use as a dip or spray. • Spread diatomaceous earth moistened with water on the yard (1 lb per 1000 sq ft). Avoid breathing dust.
Houseplant Insecticide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash leaves with soapy water, then rinse.
Weed Killer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dig or pull weeds when the soil is wet, keep them cut to the ground, or use organic gardening products.
Enamel or Oil-based Paints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use latex and water-based paints instead.
Paint Thinners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use mercury-free or latex paints.