

STAINS

Carpet Stains:

White vinegar mixed with one teaspoon of mild liquid detergent and one pint of lukewarm water will remove many stains from carpeting. Apply mixture to stained area and rub with soft brush. Rinse using damp towel. Blot with dry towel.

Use club soda on rug stains or chalk to soak up oil.

AIR FRESHENER / DEODORIZER

Simmer cloves and a cinnamon stick in boiled water or potpourri dish. Fresh flowers, scented potpourri, fresh herbs or candles will freshen the air. Candles should be burned on or in a candle dish. Keep away from curtains, children and pets.

Clean the source of the odor with a baking soda and water paste or a vinegar and water solution.

GARDENING HELPS / INSECTS

DEER/ INSECTS: The following concoction may discourage deer, and insects from eating your outdoor plants: In a blender, combine one cup water, five garlic cloves, and six large hot peppers. Blend thoroughly, strain and pour the mixture into a spray bottle. Apply liberally wherever and whenever needed.

JAPANESE BEETLES: A homemade trap is one idea. Open a can of fruit cocktail and put it in the sun, sheltered from rain, to ferment for about a week. When fermented, place the can of fruit on a stack of bricks inside a yellow colored pail or dishpan. Place the pail or pan about 25 feet away from the plants needing protection and fill it with water to a level that is just below the fruit cocktail can. Beetles will feast on the fruit and drown in the water.

LAWN: Adjust the pH to 6.5; mow high with a sharp blade, and water deeply when the soil is too dry to maintain a healthy lawn. The best time to water is during the early morning or late evening when evaporation is at the lowest. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to replenish nitrogen levels.

INSECT PESTS: Handpick off plants or walls or trap; keep household clean and food covered; caulk or seal entryways.

FLEAS: Use a flea comb, vacuum often, and routinely wash pet or pet's bedding with a rosemary bath. If vacuuming often, add a mothball to the vacuum bag to kill eggs and fleas. (A mothball will dissolve but remember that it is odorous.)

MOTHS: Keep garments clean; wrap in linen or seal in paper packages or cardboard boxes. Kill eggs by running dry garment through a warm dryer. Lavender or dried lemon peels can be sealed in muslin sachets and placed in drawers and closets.

ANTS: Keep the environment clean. Seal entries with caulk or weather-stripping. Repel with cucumber or lemon peelings, or a mix of equal parts borax and powdered sugar. Other alternatives include red chili pepper, paprika or dried peppermint. Be extremely cautious, when children are around.



Thanks to suggestions found in: "Household Hazards: A Guide to Detoxifying Your Home," League of Woman Voters of Albany County (1990).

Many thanks to a student intern who voluntarily helped compile the best tips during the summer of '96

Questions?

Recycling Hotline, 439-4955 x 1510
Monday – Friday, 8:00AM to 12 Noon

WOOD CLEANERS

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Woodwork and Paneling: To clean fingerprints and dirt from varnished woodwork or

ALTERNATIVES TO DETOXYFY YOUR HOME



Hazardous products are discarded materials that could be dangerous to people, pets, and the environment. These chemicals could pollute ground water, streams, and soil.

One way to detoxify your home is to use natural cleaning solutions or pest control alternatives that can replace their more dangerous counterpart. The best disposal method for many household cleaners is to use them up by carefully following the directions. Never mix cleaners, especially chlorine bleach and ammonia. The combination can produce a dangerous gas.

THESE ARE SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVES AND SHOULD BE USED CAREFULLY. YOU MAY HAVE FAVORITE ALTERNATIVES OF YOUR OWN.

Alternatives can be made from common items found in most households:

- ▶ Baking Soda
- ▶ White Vinegar
- ▶ Flour
- ▶ Club Soda
- ▶ Lemon Juice
- ▶ Aluminum Foil
- ▶ Borax
- ▶ Salt

paneling, mix one part white vinegar with two

parts water. Moisten a rag and clean away. After cleaning the wood, polish with a dry cloth to bring out the luster. This solution can also be used on some furniture finishes, test in an inconspicuous area first.

Furniture Polish: Mix 2 parts vegetable or olive oil with 1 part lemon juice. Apply with a soft cloth.

White Rings on Wooden Surfaces: Rub a small amount of mayonnaise on the ring, Leave on 1 hour then wipe off.

BATHROOM CLEANERS

Sliding Glass Shower Door: Pour full strength vinegar in the track, let stand. Rinse well with water.

Chrome Bathroom Fixtures: Soapy buildup can be removed by pouring a small amount of undiluted white vinegar on the fixtures, leave on for about 5 minutes, then rinse well. For hard-to-remove stains, cover the stain with a paper towel and spray with vinegar so that it remains moist for a longer time. Then apply "elbow grease." Rinse well and buff.

Lime Deposits: Soak showerheads or faucet parts in white vinegar overnight to remove hard water buildup.

Clean Shower Stalls, Tubs, Toilets, and Tiles: Sprinkle baking soda on a damp sponge and rub. Rinse well and buff dry. To clean textured surfaces, apply a baking soda and water paste with sponge, allow to set for a few minutes, rinse clean, and wipe dry.

Toilet: To clean and deodorize, pour in undiluted white vinegar, leave in for about 5 minutes, then flush. Stubborn hard water stains can be scrubbed with undiluted vinegar or cola that has gone flat and a brush.

KITCHEN CLEANERS

Kitchen Floors and Painted Surfaces: Soapy film can be removed if you add a splash of white vinegar to the rinse water.

Linoleum Floor Cleaner/Wax: Mop with 1 cup white vinegar mixed with 2 gallons of water to remove dull, greasy film. Polish with club soda. Sour milk or skim milk added to rinse water will add shine to the floor.

Teakettle: Remove lime deposits by filling the kettle with a mixture of one-half cup each of vinegar and water, boil gently, rinse well.

Oven Cleaner: Sprinkle salt or baking soda on spills, while hot. Leave on for about 30 minutes, then wipe clean. This works on greasy, grimy baking pans too. To clean oven racks or barbecue grills, place a towel in the tub, sprinkle automatic dishwasher detergent on the racks, then barely cover them with hot water. Leave on for at least 30 minutes, clean, rinse and dry.

METAL POLISHES

Brass or Copper Polish (Unlaquered): Use a paste of equal parts of salt, flour, and vinegar. Apply this mixture and let stand for about 10 minutes. Rinse the object well with warm water and polish dry or Dip one half a lemon in salt and scrub gently.

Silver Polish: Place a piece of aluminum foil in the bottom of a porcelain pan or sink. Add enough very hot tap water to cover the silver pieces. For each quart of water, add one teaspoon of salt and one teaspoon of baking soda. Add the silver pieces and let soak five minutes. Remove the silver, rinse and buff dry with a soft cloth

Stainless Steel: Baking soda or mineral oil will bring back a shine. Vinegar removes spots.

Chrome: Rubbing alcohol **OR** a small amount of ammonia mixed with hot water. Also try white flour on a dry rag.

WINDOW CLEANERS

Mix ¼ cup vinegar or rubbing alcohol with 1-quart water to wash window, then squeegee clean.

Wipe windows dry and streak-free with dry newspaper.

To remove grease on windows, use 1 teaspoon of ammonia in 1-quart water.

DRAIN OPENERS

Prevent clogging by using a drain strainer and flush drain weekly with 2 to 4 quarts of boiling water.

A plunger or mechanical snake will remove many clogs

To clean and freshen the drain, pour 1/2 cup baking soda and 1/2 cup white vinegar into the drain. Follow 15 to 20 minutes later with 2 cups boiling water.

*Keep the World Clean
Use Safe Alternatives*



Visit the Town of Bethlehem's website for recycling and waste reduction tips.
<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/Recycling/recycling.asp>