A CLEAN SWEEP:
MAKE YOUR OWN SAFER AND INEXPENSIVE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS

USING AND MAKING A CLEANER
• It may take longer because of needing to let the mixture “sit” before rinsing.
• You may use more “elbow grease.”
• The ingredients are still not completely safe, so follow these guidelines:
  • Be careful mixing chemicals. Chlorine bleach and ammonia produce a toxic gas when mixed.
  • Only make a month’s supply at a time, or the mixture may lose its strength.
• Mix where there is plenty of fresh air.
• Still store all cleaning solutions out of children’s reach or in a locked cabinet.
• Store in new containers bought for each specific mixture and keep in a permanent place. If using a recycled container your mixture may react with something left over inside it or be mistaken for a food or beverage.
• Label carefully, clearly and permanently.

Sometimes only a commercial product will do the job. Here are some tips to keep your household safe:
• Read the label for choosing the least poisonous product, storage, use, disposal and risks.
• Avoid aerosols; use sprays, powders, pastes or liquids.

GENERAL PURPOSE CLEANERS:
• Mix ½ cup of vinegar with 1 gallon of water.
• Combine ¼ cup of baking soda and 1 tablespoon of water to form a paste.
• Combine 2 tablespoons of ammonia, 2 tablespoons liquid detergent and 1 quart of warm water.

FURNITURE POLISH:
Mix 2 teaspoons lemon oil and 1 pint of mineral oil.

AIR FRESHENER/ODOR REMOVAL:
• Simmer cinnamon sticks or sliced citrus in water.
• Spray a mixture of 1 teaspoon baking soda and 1 teaspoon lemon juice dissolved in 2 cups of hot water.
• Sprinkle carpets with baking soda at bedtime and leave overnight. Vacuum the next day.
BATHROOM CLEANER:
• ½ cup bleach and 1 cup of water, wiped on and left for 5 minutes will remove mildew from tile.
• Vinegar and water removes mildew from shower curtains and water spots from faucets.
• Borax and lemon juice cleans and deodorizes the toilet.
• ¼ cup of cornstarch, ½ cup ammonia and 1 cup vinegar on windows or shower doors for removing rust and lime deposits.

DRAINS:
• For a weekly drain cleaner mix 2 tablespoons of baking soda, ½ cup vinegar with 1 quart of warm water and pour down the drain. Let sit ½ hour and rinse with 3 quarts of hot water.
• To unclog drain: Pour 1/2 cup baking soda down the drain, then 1/2 cup vinegar. After 15 minutes pour in boiling water to clear. Caution: only use this method with metal plumbing. Plastic pipes can melt if excess boiling water is used. Also, do not use this method after trying a commercial drain opener--the vinegar can react with the drain opener to create dangerous fumes.

KITCHEN:
• Baking soda makes a good scouring powder for counters, fine china, coffeepots, and toasters.
• Vinegar in the rinse water removes spots on glassware.
• Oven cleaner: Sprinkle baking soda on stains. 5 minutes later scrub with a damp cloth.

WINDOW CLEANER: (Note - remove chemical cleaner with ammonia first, or you may get streaks when using vinegar solutions.)
• ½ cup of vinegar in 1 gallon of water, wiping off with newspaper.
• ¼ cup of ammonia in 1 gallon of water, wiping off with newspaper, again.

FLOOR CLEANER:
• Mix 1 cup vinegar OR ½ cup of ammonia in a bucket of water.
• If there is a wax or dirt buildup, use 2 cups of ammonia per gallon of water and let sit for 20 minutes before rinsing off.
• Dissolve 1/2cup of borax in 2 gallons of hot water.