

# Fact Sheet 6

## SAFE ALTERNATIVES TO HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS



A program of Des Moines County Regional Solid Waste Commission and Great River Regional Waste Authority.



### HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS IN OUR HOMES

Try these nontoxic or less toxic alternatives to hazardous household chemicals. While a little more "elbow grease" may be needed with some of these products, the benefits in terms of improved indoor air quality, decreased exposure to chemicals, fewer waste disposal concerns, convenience, and lower costs should make the switch an easy one.

For this:	Try this:
Air freshener .....	Simmer cinnamon and cloves
Ants .....	Red chili powder at point of entry
Bleach .....	Borax
Car battery corrosion .....	Baking soda and water
Cleaners-general household .....	Mix 1/2 c. ammonia, 1/3 c. vinegar, 1/4 c. baking soda in 1 gal. warm water
Decal remover .....	Soak in white vinegar
Drain cleaner .....	Plunger followed by 1/2 c. baking soda, 1/2 c. vinegar and 2 qts. boiling water
Fertilizer .....	Compost and vermicompost
Flea and tick repellent .....	Scatter pine needles, fennel, rye or rosemary on pet's bed
Flies (insects) .....	Well watered pot of basil
Floor cleaner .....	1 c. vinegar and 2 gallons water
Furniture polish .....	1 Tablespoon lemon oil in 1 pint of mineral oil
Handcleaner for paint/grease .....	Baby oil
Ink spot remover .....	Cold water and 1 Tablespoon cream of tartar and 1 Tablespoon lemon juice
Insects on plants .....	Soapy water on leaves, then rinse
Mildew remover .....	Equal parts of vinegar and salt
Moth repellent .....	Cedar chips or dried lavender enclosed in cotton sachets
Oil stain remover (clothing) .....	White chalk rubbed into stain before laundering
Oven cleaner .....	2 Tablespoons liquid soap, 2 teaspoons borax and warm water
Paint brush softener .....	Hot vinegar
Pet odor remover .....	Cider vinegar
Porcelain cleaner .....	Make paste from baking soda and water; let set, rub clean and rinse
Refrigerator deodorizer .....	Open box baking soda
Roach repellent .....	Chopped bay leaves and cucumber skins
Rug/carpet cleaner .....	Club soda
Scouring powder .....	Baking soda
Slug and snail repellent .....	Onion and marigold plants
Tub and tile cleaner .....	1/4 c. baking soda and 1/2 c. white vinegar and warm water
Window cleaner .....	1/2 c. vinegar in 1 gallon warm water