

Green cleaning products help keep chemicals out of the waste stream and groundwater. They also typically come in recycled packaging - an extra bonus for the environment. Homemade alternatives are also a good choice and are very economical, using items that people already have at home.

### CHECK THE PRODUCTS INGREDIENTS

This can be difficult because manufacturers aren't required to list all the ingredients (except for food products). Even when ingredients are listed, the information can be confusing. Use the warning words as a guide.



### THE CITY OF REDMOND SUPPORTS GREEN PURCHASING

and is interested in working with consumers, businesses and organizations to identify green cleaning alternatives.

For more info visit King County's Local Hazards Waste Management website at: [www.lhwmp.org](http://www.lhwmp.org)

For businesses call: 425-556-2753

For residents call: 425-556-2832



# Green Cleaning

Using less toxic household products keeps the home healthier and protects the environment

Many common cleaning products are hazardous to the environment when flushed down the drain or thrown away. Fumes from household cleansers and other products make indoor air in the typical home two to five times more polluted than the air outside. Children, seniors and pets are particularly sensitive to household chemicals.



### LOOK AT THE WARNING LABEL

CAUTION & WARNING = Moderate hazard  
DANGER & POISON = Highest hazard  
Avoid these products and look for products with no warning words.

### CHOOSE A PRODUCT WITH NO OR MILD SCENT

Scented products can add chemicals to the indoor air environment and may be disruptive to children and those with respiratory ailments or sensitive skin.

# Homemade Alternatives

These contain natural ingredients that can be purchased at grocery stores and retail chains.



## Safety First

Do not mix the Green Cleaning recipes with other cleaning products. Keep all cleaning products out of the reach of children. To properly dispose of hazardous household products, call King County Hazards Line at 206-296-4692

### Tub and Sink Cleaner

- Use baking soda in place of scouring powder
- Sprinkle it on porcelain fixtures and rub with a wet rag
- Add Castile Soap or Murphy's Oil Soap to the rag for more cleaning power
- Rinse well to avoid leaving a hazy film

### Window and Mirror Cleaner

- Put ¼ cup of vinegar in a spray bottle and fill to top with water
- Spray on surface
- Rub with a cloth diaper, lint-free rag or sheets of newspaper

### Outdoor Window Cleaner

- Use a sponge and wash with warm water mixed with a few drops of liquid soap
- Rinse well
- Squeegee dry

### Toilet Bowl Cleaner

- Sprinkle baking soda inside the bowl
- Squeeze in a couple of drops of soap
- Scrub with a toilet bowl brush and finish outside surfaces with a rag sprinkled with baking soda
- Rinse

### Linoleum Floor Cleaner

- Mix 1/2 cup vinegar in a bucket of warm water
- Mop as usual
- Vinegar odor will go away shortly after the floor dries



### All-Purpose Cleaner

- For spots on linoleum, tile and wood-work
- Add a drop of Murphy's Oil Soap on a wet washcloth
- Rub briskly

*Note: A washcloth will last longer and create less waste than a sponge*

### Copper Cleaner

Do not use this cleaner on lacquered finishes

- Mix equal parts vinegar and salt (a tablespoon of each should do)
- Apply to surface with a rag
- Rinse thoroughly with water to prevent corrosion
- For a shiny appearance, apply a little vegetable oil with a cloth and rub

### Drain Cleaner

This recipe will free minor clogs and help prevent future clogs

- Pour ½ cup baking soda down the drain
- Pour ½ cup vinegar down the drain
- Let it fizz for a few minutes
- Pour a teakettle full of boiling water down the drain to clear it
- Repeat if needed

*Note: If the clog is stubborn, use a plunger. If very stubborn, use a plumber's snake*



### Oven Cleaner

Do not use this cleaner on self-cleaning ovens

- Mix 1 cup baking soda with enough water to make a paste
- Apply to oven surfaces
- Let stand for several minutes
- Scrub with a scouring pad for most surfaces
- Use a spatula or bread knife to get under large food deposits

*Try spot cleaning your oven regularly; dirty ovens are less energy-efficient*

### Resources for More Homemade Household Cleaners

**Baking Soda, Over 500 Fabulous, Fun and Frugal Uses You've Probably Never Thought Of.** Vicki Lansky, The Book Peddlers. Grandmother knew how useful baking soda is. Now everyone can find out too.

**Clean it Fast, Clean it Right.** Edited by Jeff Brendenberg, Rodale Press. Household tips from A to W (even a remedy for shrunken sweaters!) using common generic products.

**Clean House, Clean Planet.**

Karen Logan, Pocket Books. Provides a wealth of cleaning information and rates the effectiveness and cost of alternatives.