

Non-Toxic Cleaning Alternatives

The following list provides non-toxic alternatives to typical cleaning products. It should be noted that even non-toxic substances can cause temporary harm to the environment and should therefore be used sparingly.

When cleaning, always try water and a little elbow grease first.

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| ALL PURPOSE CLEANER | Mix one cup white vinegar with two gallons water. |
| AIR FRESHENER | Leave out an open box of baking soda. |
| AMMONIA-BASED CLEANERS | Vinegar, salt, and water. |
| BRASS CLEANER | Worcestershire sauce. Or paste made with equal amounts of salt, vinegar, and water. |
| COPPER CLEANER | Lemon juice and water. Or paste of lemon juice, salt, and flour. |
| CHLORINE BLEACH | Baking soda and water. Or borax. |
| CHROME CLEANER/POLISH | Apple cider vinegar to clean; baby oil to polish. |
| DISINFECTANTS | One half of a cup borax in one gallon of water. |
| DRAIN OPENER | Disassemble and use a plumber's snake. Or flush with boiling water mixed with one quarter cup baking soda and one quarter cup vinegar. |
| FIBERGLASS STAIN REMOVER | Baking soda paste. |
| FLOOR CLEANER | One-cup vinegar plus two gallons of water. |
| PAINTS | Use latex or water-based paints. |
| PAINT REMOVER / STRIPPER | Use heat gun to peel off paint. |
| PAINT THINNERS | Use water (effective for water-based paints). |
| STAINLESS STEEL CLEANER | Baking soda or mineral oil for polishing, vinegar to remove spots. |
| TOILET BOWL CLEANER | Use toilet brush and baking soda. |
| WOOD POLISH | Olive or almond oil (interior walls only) |
| WINDOW CLEANER | Mix two tablespoons vinegar in one quart of water or rub glass with newspaper. |

Sources: Buller (1995) and MA Department of Environmental Management, Environmental Hazards Management Institute.

*Adapted with permission from Connecticut Clean Marina Guide Book
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Clean Boater Fact Sheet

