

CLEANER AND GREENER HOUSEHOLDS



**MARLBOROUGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

How can we help the environment?

Previous generations survived very well without the range of manufactured bleaches, sprays, cleaners and powders we use today. So can we if we are prepared to make an effort.



Have a chat with your parents or grandparents or more mature friends. They have a wealth of information and are often happy to share their knowledge in this area.

Basic ingredients serve most cleaning needs:

- ✧ **Baking Soda -**
cleans.
Deodorises.
softens water.
is a good scouring powder.
- ✧ **Lemon Juice –**
acts as a cleanser and freshener.
- ✧ **Pure Soap -**
biodegrades completely, non-toxic, available in liquid, flakes, powder or bar form.
- ✧ **Washing Soda -**
cuts greases, removes stains.
- ✧ **White Vinegar -**
cuts greases, freshens, helps disinfect.

Recipes

- ◆ **Floor Cleaner – Basic –**
basic hot water and pure soap.
- ◆ **Floor Cleaner for Cork, Tile, Wood, Lino, Slate Floors –**
half cup white vinegar in bucket of hot water.
- ◆ **Floor Polish –**
beeswax, one part lemon juice to two parts olive or vegetable oil or three parts olive oil to two parts vinegar.
- ◆ **Insect Repellents –**
small amounts of citronella or Flyswatter Dimp - mix 'Dettol' and Olive Oil.
- ◆ **Garden Pests –**
chopped chilli peppers and garlic mixed with pure soap. Spray on plants.
- ◆ **Nappy Freshener –**
mix one capful of eucalyptus oil with a squeeze of lemon juice and add to your bucket and soak overnight – then rinse.
- ◆ **Nappy Wash -**
use pure corn starch powder or make up a paste of baking soda and water. Add a little drop of eucalyptus oil as a freshener.

If you don't want to make your own choose environmentally-friendly alternatives like the ecostore products.



Storage of Household Hazardous Wastes

If you have purchased commercially prepared household cleaners, here are some tips on how to use them carefully and how to dispose of them.

- ◆ Always store hazardous chemical products in their original containers so that handling and disposal instructions on labels can be followed and so that other users are not misled about the contents.
- ◆ Always store hazardous chemical products in properly closed containers, in well-ventilated areas and in places where children and pets cannot reach.
- ◆ Be careful not to store bleaches too close to ammonia or acids. A chlorine bleach and ammonia mixture creates a highly poisonous gas.

Recycling of Household Hazardous Wastes

If you have unwanted leftover or hazardous products other than medicine and certain pesticides, ask if a friend, relative or neighbour could make use of them. Or perhaps you can donate paint and other products to community groups, etc.

However, be sure to only pass them on in their original containers with their original labels, and with any safety notices or instructions leaflets that came with them.

Disposal of oven cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners, sink, drain cleaners, bleaches, rust removers and most acid and alkaline products

- ◆ Always try to use completely or to pass onto other people, these household products.
- ◆ Unwanted or leftover portions should be sealed in their original containers and disposed of at a household hazardous waste drop-off facility.
- ◆ Sealed empty containers should be disposed of with your ordinary rubbish. They should never be reused to store other materials.

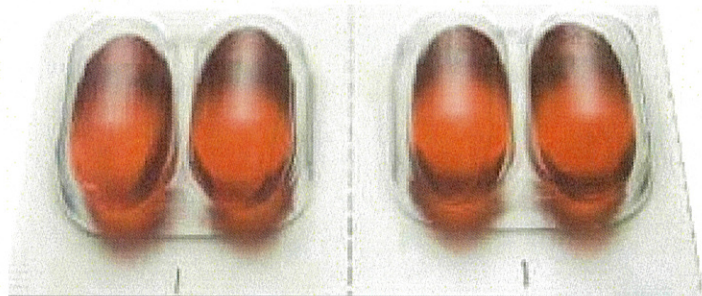
Disposal of paint and solvents, spot removers, carpet and furniture cleaners, floor and furniture polishes and glues and other hazardous household materials

- ◆ Our hazardous waste storage facility is operating at the Blenheim Transfer Station in Wither Road. Hazardous household waste clearly labelled can be deposited at the depot free of charge. Ring Council for further information on Ph: 03 5207400.



Disposal of prescription medicines and over the counter drugs

- Never pass on prescription medicines or over the counter drugs to anyone.
- Unwanted leftovers should not be left lying around for children to find and misuse. These can be returned to your local pharmacy for safe disposal.



You may also flush small quantities of them down the toilet. However, if you have a septic tank system do not flush antibiotics down the toilet as they can destroy the bacteria required in the tanks. In such cases antibiotics should be crushed or broken, mixed with other rubbish and put out for collection.

Here are some proven recipes for cleaners

- **General Cleanser** - always use the simplest, mildest product that will get the job done. Try warm water mixed with soap or vinegar.
- **Air Freshener** - find source of odour and eliminate, place bowls of potpourri.
- **To Absorb Odours** – two to four teaspoons baking soda or vinegar in small bowls in refrigerator, around the home, bottom of rubbish bin.
- **Disinfectant** – one quarter of a cup of white vinegar in two litres of hot water.
- **Dishwashing** - liquid or powdered pure soap. For more difficult jobs - add two to three teaspoons vinegar. For baked on foods, place four tablespoons of baking soda in the bottom of 'oven-proof' dirty dish and add just enough water to cover bottom of dish. Heat for 30 minutes, switch off oven and leave dish in overnight. Alternatively spread a sloppy paste over burnt-on food and leave to soak overnight then wipe off paste.
- **Environmentally Friendly Dishwasher** - put bicarbonate of soda (baking soda) in soap powder container, and vinegar in the rinse aid dispenser. You may need to occasionally use baking soda to scrub out the inside of mugs.
- **Tub, Tile Toilet** - scrub with sponge or firm bristle brush using powdered soap or a scouring powder of baking soda, borax or salt.
- **Lime Deposits** - undiluted vinegar.
- **Soap Scum** - paste of vinegar and washing soda.
- **Windows or Mirrors** - three tablespoons vinegar 1 litre warm water. Baking soda is also an economical cleaner for windows, stainless steel and chrome and laminate surfaces. Apply then polish off with a soft cloth.

- **Detergents** - soap flakes or powder adding washing soda to 'soften' water.
- **Fabric softener** - one-cup vinegar and/or one quarter cup baking soda during final rinse.
- **Spray Starch** - two tablespoons cornstarch dissolved in half a litre of cold water in spray bottles.
- **Kettle de-Scaler** - you can use a couple of teaspoons of white vinegar in a kettle of water to remove the black manganese build up we get in Marlborough.
- **Drains** - never tip oil or fat down drains. Always use a strainer. If blocked, pour a mixture of up to three cups vinegar and three tablespoons baking soda down drain, then seal tightly with a rubber plug - flush 30 minutes later with hot water.
- **Oven Cleaner** - wipe with soapy cloth while warm. Baking soda also makes an effective cleaner for dirty and greasy ovens. Mix enough baking soda with water to form a stiff paste. Spread over all inside oven surfaces. Heat for 30 minutes. When cool brush off.

To clean the glass on an oven door, wipe over with a clean cloth dipped in baking soda then sponge off with clean water. Wipe the outside of the oven, around hot plates and enamel stove surfaces with a solution of four tablespoons borax dissolved in 5 litres of hot water. Store excess cleaner solution in a suitable



Metal Cleaners

- ◆ **Aluminium** - soak overnight in vinegar and water, rub.
- ◆ **Brass** - mix equal parts salt and flour with a little vinegar, and then rub.
- ◆ **Chrome** - rub with undiluted vinegar.
- ◆ **Copper** - rub with lemon juice and salt or hot vinegar and salt.
- ◆ **Gold** - lukewarm soapy water, dry and polish.
- ◆ **Silver and Stainless Steel** - rub with paste of baking soda and water.
- ◆ **Eco Store**
If you don't have time to make your own, call free hone 0800 432 678 for a copy of the Eco Store catalogue. The Eco Store has a lot of products New Zealand made from natural ingredients (www.ecostore.co.nz).

Also check out this website:

www.sustainableliving.co.nz

For further information contact:



MDC

15 Seymour Street
PO Box 443
Blenheim 7240
NEW ZEALAND

Ph: +64 3 520 7400
Fax: +64 3 520 7496
Email: mdc@marlborough.govt.nz
www.marlborough.govt.nz

This information is reviewed and updated annually