Avoid Hazardous Wastes By Trying These Alternatives

Air freshener—Place saucers of vinegar around the house to absorb odors.

All purpose cleaner—1) 1 teaspoon borax in 1 quart warm water to clean most surfaces. 2) 1 tablespoon ammonia, 1 tablespoon liquid detergent and 2 cups water. Mix ingredients and put in spray bottle.

Aluminum pan cleaner—2 tablespoons cream of tartar, 1 quart water. To clean aluminum cookware, combine ingredients in cookware. Bring solution to boil and simmer for 10 minutes. Wash and dry as usual.

Ants—Wash counters, floors, etc., with mixture of equal parts vinegar and water.

Brass polish—Make a paste out of lemon juice and baking soda. The paste should be the consistency of toothpaste. Rub onto brass with a soft cloth. Rinse with water.

Drain cleaner—1) Use a plunger. 2) Use a flexible metal snake that can be purchased or rented. 3) Pour ¼ cup baking soda down drain. Next pour down ¼ cup vinegar. This mixture will foam. After 15 minutes flush with boiling or hot water. This mixture will not open a clogged drain but if used regularly, it will keep drains flowing freely. Do not use these methods if you have used a commercial drain opener that may still be present in the drain.

Oven cleaner—1) Sprinkle water on oven surface. Apply baking soda. Rub using very fine steel wool. Wipe off scum with a damp sponge. Rinse well and dry. 2) While oven is still warm, sprinkle water on the spill, then sprinkle salt on it. When the oven cools down, scrape the spill away and wash the area clean. 3) Heat oven to 150°. Turn off the oven, place a bowl of ammonia in the oven. Let this set over night.

Rust—Scrub with lemon juice mixed with salt.

Toilet bowl—1) Use a pumice bar to gently scour the toilet bowl ring. 2) Mix lemon juice and borax into a paste about the consistency of toothpaste. Brush toilet to wet sides. Rub paste on the toilet bowl ring. Let sit for two hours and then scrub thoroughly. 3) Sprinkle baking soda into the toilet bowl. Add vinegar. Scour with toilet brush. 4) Pour ¼ cup liquid chlorine bleach into toilet bowl. Let stand for one-half hour. Scrub with brush. Flush.

Toilet, Tub, Tile and Chrome cleaner—Baking soda can be used as a mild abrasive for most household needs. Add ¼ cup vinegar to each quart of water for cleaning and disinfecting. Add salt or baking soda to intensify the solution effects.

Window cleaner—1) Water. 2) ½ cup white vinegar, 1 gallon of water. 3) ½ cup white vinegar, 1 pint rubbing alcohol, 1 teaspoon dishwashing liquid, 1 gallon of water. 4) Same as #2 but substitute ¼ cup ammonia for vinegar.

FOR MATERIALS THAT HAVE NO AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVES. FOLLOW THESE TIPS:

- Buy only what you can use in a short period of time.
- Leave products in their original container.
- Don’t mix a product with other materials unless the labels give directions for doing so.
- Use products in a well-ventilated area.
- Don’t eat, drink or smoke while using hazardous materials.
- Avoid aerosols.

Watch what you pour down the drain. Hazardous waste can get into the ground and drinking water.

Save energy, money, and reduce pollution by turning down the thermostat and turning off lights if you are the last one to leave a room.

Most electricity production results in mercury emissions.