SAFER ALTERNATIVES RECIPES

These and recipes like them can be found through simple Google searches.

**Bleach Based Cleaner**
- Use non-chlorine dry bleach or washing soda
- Use hydrogen peroxide-based liquid bleaches

**All-Purpose Cleaner**
- Mix ½ cup white vinegar in 1 quart water

**Scouring Powder**
- Baking soda and hot water

**Dish Cleaner**
- Choose dishwashing detergents with low or no phosphates
- Use vegetable oil-based soaps for hand washing

**Disinfectant**
- White Vinegar
- ½ cup borax in 1 gallon of water

**Drain Opener**
- Use a plunger or metal snake
- Pour ½ cup baking soda followed by ½ cup white vinegar down the drain, cover and let sit for 5 minutes.
- Pour boiling water down the drain to flush

**Floor Cleaner**
- Vinyl and tile floors- mix ¼ cup washing soda and ¼ cup vinegar into a gallon of warm water
- Wood floors- vegetable oil soap and water

**Furniture Polish**
- Unvarnished wood- almond, walnut, or olive oil
- Varnished wood- vegetable oil soap

**Glass Cleaner**
- Mix ½ cup vinegar with ¼ teaspoon liquid soap in 1-gallon of water
- Mix lemon juice with water
Laundry Detergent (Okay for High Efficiency washing machines)
- 1 bar Ivory, Fels Naptha, or Zote soap, grated
- 1 cup borax
- 1 cup washing soda
- A five-gallon bucket with a lid
- Warm water

➢ Directions
  - On the stovetop, place four cups of water and add the grated soap. Heat up and stir until all the soap is dissolved.
  - Pour the soap mixture in the bucket and add the borax and washing soda.
  - Fill up the bucket with warm water and stir until all is dissolved.
  - Use ½ to 1 cup for a large load of laundry.

Oven Cleaner
- Baking soda, salt, and hot water
- Mix 2 tablespoons of dish soap and 2 cups of warm water. Apply and let sit 20 minutes.
- Non-chlorinated scouring powder
- Use oven-liners to catch drips

Rug and Upholstery Cleaner
- Sprinkle baking soda on rug and vacuum
- Use soap based, non-aerosol rug shampoo
- Pour club soda on spill and blot

Silver and Copper Polish
- Soak silver in 1 quart warm water with 1 teaspoon baking soda
- Pour vinegar and salt over copper and rub

Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Mix ½ cup borax and 1-gallon water to clean and deodorize. Let 1 cup of borax sit in the bowl overnight.
- Coat stains in toilet bowl with a paste of lemon and borax. Let sit for 20 minutes, then scrub.

Chemical Fertilizer
- Compost
- Wood ash
- Fish meal

Flea Collars and Spray
- Eucalyptus, melaleuca, or tea tree oil
• Spray on Collar, on and around bedding, use as ointment or in bath.

**Pesticide**
• Release ladybugs or praying mantis for aphids and other soft body pests
• Spray with soapy water

**Herbicide**
• Boiling water poured on weeds
• 1 part salt to 8 cups hot water, 1 teaspoon of dish soap, spray on weeds
• ¼ cup salt, 4 cups white vinegar, 1 teaspoon of dish soap, spray on weeds

**Roach Repellent**
• Non-toxic roach traps
• Dust boric acid into areas where roaches hide

**Rodent Bait**
• Use traps

**Snail/Slug Killer**
• Apply diatomaceous earth ½ around plants
• Fill a shallow container with beer and put it in the ground so that the lip of the container is even with the ground.

**Oil-Based Paint**
• Use water based latex or acrylic paint with low Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC’s)

**Furniture Stripper**
• Use sandpaper or a power sander, a heat gun, or a paint scraper
• Use water-soluble paint strippers

**Stains and Varnish**
• Use water-based preservatives
• Use natural earth pigment finishes
• Linseed oil

**Thinners and Solvents**
• Non-chlorinated solvents such as isopropanol, ethanol, acetone, and turpentine are less toxic than chlorinated solvents.

**Air Freshener**
• Ventilate with outdoor air
• Use potpourri or a sachet