



Alternatives to Chemicals

Environmental protection begins in your own backyard

Thousands of household products contain toxic ingredients. They add convenience to our lives, but if used improperly, these products can endanger our health and the environment.

Several types of cleaning jobs can be accomplished using safe products commonly found around the home:

Alternatives to Household Cleaners

All-purpose cleaner— 2 Tbsp. ammonia, 2 Tbsp. liquid detergent, 1 quart water (do **not** use detergent with bleach added).

Drain cleaner—Pour 1/2 cup of baking soda down the drain first, then 1/2 cup of vinegar. Let it fizz for a few minutes, then pour down a teakettle full of boiling water.

Window cleaner—Put 1/4 cup vinegar in a spray bottle and fill to top with water. Spray on surface. Rub with lint-free cloth.

Alternatives to Pesticides

Use a non-chemical compound such as a solution of three teaspoons of pure soap per one gallon of water. Store the mixture in a spray bottle. Clean leaves with it and spray directly on any insects.

Introduce predatory species such as spiders, ladybugs, etc.

Include pest resistant plants such as yarrow, thyme and marigolds.

Alternatives to Pest Repellants

Ants—Mix 1 Tbsp. each of sugar and borax with 2 Tbsp. of water. Soak a cloth in the mixture and place in a flat dish near the infestation; or place red chili peppers or cream of tartar near place of entry.

Mice—Remove rodents' food supply and use live traps available at the hardware store; get a cat.

Most pests—Garlic oil and extracts are used to repel a variety of insect pests and also work as fungicides.

Deer Repellant

Blend raw eggs with water. Some gardeners add garlic and hot pepper. This repellant can last for several weeks when sprayed on plant foliage or until it is washed away by water or rain.

Contact us

**ADEQ Helpline
(501) 682-0923**



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Thanks to these sources and websites

Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Univ. of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service www.uaex.edu

University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension

City of Seattle www.ci.seattle.wa.us

Michigan State University

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/topic/info/composting_recycling