


# ALTERNATIVE CLEANING METHODS

PLUS GARDEN,  
HOBBY SHOP  
AND  
PET CARE REMEDIES



Provided by  
 SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF  
NORTHERN COOK COUNTY

**Many commercial household cleaners and stain removers contain hazardous ingredients that are corrosive, flammable, dangerously reactive, or can cause health problems such as respiratory irritation.**

**The following alternative general purpose (homemade) cleaning methods provide with you less-toxic or non-toxic substitutes.**

**Homemade cleaning solutions work best when you prepare them fresh each time you need them. If you want to make up a small quantity to use for a few days in a row, store it in a tightly sealed glass jar out of the reach of children and pets. Use a dark glass jar or store in a closed cabinet.**

**Remember -- to replace the cleaning power of the stronger chemical you choose not to use, you need to figure on providing some additional muscle power or be willing to wait longer (for cleaners to act) or both. While a little more “elbow grease” may have to be used with some of these products, the benefits in terms of improved indoor air quality, decreased exposure to chemicals, fewer waste disposal concerns, convenience, and lower costs should make the switch an easy one to make.**



The alternative cleaning methods in this guide have been gathered from many different sources that identify alternatives to chemical-based commercially available cleaners. Due to the large number of alternatives presented, SWANCC has not tested any of the methods, makes no representation about their effectiveness or safety, and is not responsible for any damage or injury that may occur. Always use caution when preparing cleaning solutions and test products on small areas to determine the effectiveness and rule out damage to items.

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Cleaning Products	Solutions or Alternatives
Aerosols	Use pump-spray or other non-aerosol versions of cleaning and grooming products. For example, use liquid, paste, or powder oven cleaners; use cream, stick or roll-on deodorants.
Air Fresheners and Deodorizers	Open a window, or use an exhaust fan or do both. Sprinkle baking soda in odor producing areas; set white vinegar out in an open dish or spray room with white vinegar; use potpourri or simmer cinnamon and cloves; boil a pot of water with orange peels, cloves, cinnamon, apple juice and nutmeg; burn vanilla candles or sprinkle 2 to 3 teaspoons of ground cinnamon in a foil pan and heat in a 300 to 325 degree oven until the fragrance fills the room. Simmer a small pan of 50/50 vinegar and water on top of the stove while cooking vegetables that give off unpleasant odors, or add vinegar to the cooking water. Or, with lamp turned off, spray bulb with perfumes you no longer use. When lamp is turned on, a pleasant odor is present in that room. Or, put some fragrant mineral soak or crystals in small containers around your home. When the smell fades, use in your bath water. Some of the best plants for cleaning the air are the peace lily, lady palm, rubber plant, Boston fern and English ivy. <b>Carpet freshener:</b> Sprinkle dry baking soda on carpets before vacuuming. <b>Cigarette Smoke:</b> Soak a towel in water and swish it around the room. Smoke will disappear quickly. Or, put small bowls of vinegar in 4 corners of the room where smokers are congregating. Or, place activated charcoal in small dishes to remove post-party odors. Also, burn candles. If you are a smoker, fill the ashtrays in your vehicles about 3/4 full with baking soda to extinguish the butts quickly. It not only helps put the cigarette out quickly <i>and</i> safely, but also keeps the car smelling a little fresher. <b>Diaper pail:</b> Sprinkle a little baking soda in pail to deodorize. <b>Dishwasher:</b> Sprinkle 1/2 cup baking soda on the bottom of the dishwasher between loads. <b>Garbage can:</b> Cover bottom of can with 1 inch of unused kitty litter to absorb grease and moisture. Or, sprinkle a handful of baking soda in the garbage pail each time you add garbage. <b>Garbage disposal:</b> Grind up used lemons or orange rinds, cut in small pieces, along with 6 ice cubes and cold running water. Or, sprinkle 2 to 3 tablespoons borax in the drain, let it stand for 15 minutes, then flush with water with the disposer on. <i>Also see Cleaners-Appliances.</i> <b>Gym sneakers/Shoes:</b> Fill the feet of knee high hose with unused kitty litter, tie the ends, and place inside sneakers overnight. <b>Kitty litter:</b> Sprinkle baking soda on bottom of kitty's litter box to make the litter last longer. Or, mix 1-1/2 cups borax to every 5 pounds of cat litter. <b>Musty smell:</b> Spread some plain charcoal (not the kind treated to light quickly) in a shallow pan or box. Sprinkle liberally with epsom salts. Set pan in furniture drawers/trunk or area to remove smell. Or, place a coffee can filled with kitty litter sprinkled with baking soda. <i>To prevent musty, damp odors in a closed summer house,</i> fill shallow boxes for each room with unused kitty litter. <i>For sweet smelling closets,</i> hang an old nylon stocking filled with cedar chips. Also serves as an excellent moth repellent. Place an open box of baking soda in the <b>refrigerator</b> to absorb food odors; replace every two months. Or, pour a little vanilla on a piece of cotton and place in the refrigerator. Or, half-fill a custard cup with water and add 3 or 4 teaspoons of either vanilla extract or vanillin (artificial vanilla). <i>To clean and deodorize,</i> mix 1 tablespoon borax in 1 quart warm water. Wash spilled food with a sponge and soft cloth. Rinse with cold water. Deodorize a <b>stale refrigerator</b> by pouring unused kitty litter in a flat box, place it on the middle shelf, and shut the door for 5 days. <b>Refrigerator/ Freezer:</b> Place a bowl filled with used coffee grounds on the back shelf. <b>Smelly hands:</b> Squeeze an inch of regular (non-gel) toothpaste into your palm and wash hands under running water. <b>Stuffy room:</b> Mix 1 quart brewed tea and 4 tablespoons lemon juice, strain through a coffee filter and store in empty spray bottles to use. <b>Wool sweater:</b> Wash sweater, then rinse in equal parts vinegar and water to deodorize and remove odor. <i>Also see Removal - Odors.</i>
Bleach	Soak in borax and water. Or, add 1/4 cup of both lemon juice and white vinegar to warm water and soak item 15 minutes before washing.
Car Battery Corrosion	Scrub terminals and holder with a strong solution of baking soda water. Then, smear clean terminals with petroleum jelly or lip balm.
Cleaners - Appliances	<b>Exterior:</b> Rub with equal parts water and household ammonia. Shine with isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol or use club soda to clean and polish at the same time. Or, mix together 8 ounces nonsudsing ammonia and 32 ounces denatured alcohol. Put into small spray bottle. (Also good for cleaning chrome and greasy fixtures.) <b>Dishwasher:</b> To keep the filter and insides sparkling clean, every six months fill up the cup that holds the soap with no-sugar added lemonade packets (approximately 7 packets) or orange breakfast powdered drink. Run the dishwasher through the wash cycle. A cup of white vinegar run through the entire cycle once a month will reduce soap scum on the inner workings. <b>Garbage Disposal:</b> To clean and deodorize, mix 1 cup of white vinegar in enough water to fill an ice cube tray, freeze mixture, grind the cubes through the disposal, and flush with cold water. <b>Microwave:</b> Add 4 tablespoons lemon juice to 1 cup water in a microwave-safe, 4-cup bowl. Boil for 5 minutes in the microwave, allowing the steam to condense on the inside walls of the oven. Then wipe clean. <b>Refrigerator:</b> To clean and deodorize, mix 1 tablespoon borax in 1 quart warm water. Wash spilled food with a sponge and soft cloth. Rinse with cold water. <i>To stop racks from sticking and glide easy,</i> coat the edges of the racks with petroleum jelly. <b>Washing machine:</b> To cleanse the hoses and unclog soap scum, fill washer with warm water and pour 1 gallon of distilled vinegar into it. Run the machine through an entire cycle. <i>Also see Cleaners - General Household &amp; Air Fresheners and Deodorizers.</i>

## ALTERNATIVE CLEANING METHODS

Cleaning Products	Solutions or Alternatives
Cleaners - Brushes/Combs/Curlers	Soak for 1/2 hour in a sink basin filled with warm water, a 1/2 cup of borax and 1 tablespoon hair shampoo. Drain and rinse.
Cleaners - Carpet and Rug	Mix 1/2 cup mild liquid dishwashing detergent with 1 pint boiling water; let cool. With an electric mixer, whip the paste into a stiff foam. Apply it to the carpet with a damp sponge and rub gently. Work in 4 by 4 foot sections. Wipe off the suds with a clean cloth. To rinse, add 1 cup of white vinegar to 1 gallon of lukewarm water. Rinse each section and wipe the carpet as you go. Change the rinse frequently. Clean the carpet on a dry, sunny day with windows open to speed drying. Do not soak the carpet; it may mildew. <b>For steam carpet cleaners</b> , combine 2 ounces clear household ammonia, 2 ounces liquid laundry detergent and 1 gallon cold water. Also works well on upholstery. Or, mix 1/2 cup bleach and 1/2 cup white vinegar in the steam cleaner, then add 5 gallons cold water, and last step, add 1/2 cup liquid low-sudsing laundry detergent. Adjust the recipe to the size of your cleaner. <i>Be sure to test this and other homemade cleaning solutions first on a hidden spot before using to insure that no discoloration will occur. Also see Stain Removal - Carpet.</i> <b>Carpet brightener</b> : Sprinkle a generous amount of salt or cornstarch on your carpet. Let stand for an hour before vacuuming.
Cleaners - Ceramic Tile & Tub	<i>Before you start cleaning the walls or tiles, run your shower a while with the hottest tap water available. Dirt loosened by steam will come off faster.</i> Mix one gallon warm water, 2 tablespoons of ammonia and 1 tablespoon of borax. This cleaner will not leave a smeary coating. Do not use a sponge mop on ceramic tile because it deposits the dirt in the grout. Use a rag or chamois-type mop. Or, measure 1/4 cup baking soda, 1/2 cup white vinegar, and 1 cup of ammonia into a bucket. Add 1 gallon of warm water and stir until the baking soda dissolves. This solution also works well as a general multi-purpose cleaner. Or, to kill germs on bathroom fixtures and floor, in spray bottle, mix 1 part vinegar and 1 part water, spray, then wipe clean. <b>Soap scum removal</b> : To 1 cup white vinegar, add 4 teaspoons alum (get at your local pharmacy). Saturate a cloth with the liquid and rub. Polish with wadded-up newspaper. (The vinegar will cut through the soap scum and the alum will take care of hard-water deposits.) Or, to remove scum and other spots from bathroom fixtures, use a cloth dipped in isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. Use an old toothbrush for smaller spaces. <b>To prevent soap scum buildup</b> : Switch from cake soap to shower gel. <b>To keep glass shower doors clean and scum-free</b> : Use lemon oil on clean shower doors so they stay that way. Or, rub a baby oil or regular cooking oil-filled rag over the glass once a month to maintain a shine and stop accumulation of soap-scum. <i>Also see Cleaners - Window, Removal - Mildew &amp; Stain Removal - Ceramic.</i>
Cleaners - Chandeliers	Combine 2 teaspoons isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol, 1 pint warm water, and 1 tablespoon dishwasher anti-spot agent in a spray bottle. Make sure lights are off and fixture is cool, then drench the chandelier and let drip dry. Water will sheet off. (Suggestion: Hang an open umbrella upside down from the fixture to catch the drips.)
Cleaners - Computer Keyboard	Buy a pair of cheap cotton gloves (garden department) to wear while dampened with isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol to remove stains from keyboard. A daily brushing with a clean paintbrush gets down into crevices to prevent repairs, etc. <i>Also see Cleaners - Telephone.</i>
Cleaners - Concrete Driveway	Scatter sand or kitty litter on the stain. Wearing knee pads, rub stain with a regular brick, using a circular motion. Brush when the stain is gone. This procedure will remove any stain, including oil. <i>See Removal - Oil, Motor.</i>
Cleaners - Cutting Surfaces	<b>To clean and deodorize</b> , sponge surface, such as butcher's block, with a solution made by mixing a few tablespoons of baking soda with a quart of water. <i>To rid cutting board of onion, garlic or fish smell</i> , cut a lime or lemon in two and rub the surface with the cut side of the fruit. <b>To bleach stains</b> , mix a solution of lemon juice and salt. Rub into the board, then rinse with clean water.
Cleaners - Diamonds/Jewelry	Prepare a small bowl of warm suds with 1 tablespoon each of mild dishwashing liquid and nonsudsing ammonia and 1 cup warm water. Soak gold, diamonds or other nonporous gemstones set (not glued) in gold in the solution for five minutes, then brush gently with a <u>very</u> soft toothbrush or an eyebrow brush, to dislodge any dirt and accumulations under the stone and around the setting. Place jewelry in a wire tea strainer and rinse under running water or a bowl of warm water, then pat dry with a soft lintless cloth. <b>For greasy, neglected, dirty diamonds</b> : Mix 1 cup of cold water with 1 cup of household ammonia in a small bowl. Soak the diamond jewelry in this mixture for 30 minutes. Lift out and pat gently around the back and front of the mounting with an old, very soft toothbrush. Swish the jewelry in the solution once more and drain on tissue paper.



## ALTERNATIVE CLEANING METHODS

Cleaning Products	Solutions or Alternatives
Cleaners - Drain	Prevent <b>clogging</b> by covering drains with a screen to keep out grease, lint, food scraps, coffee grinds or hair. <b>To keep drains free-running and sweet smelling</b> , use this mixture on a regular basis: In a metal or glass tightly covered container, place 1 cup each of baking soda and table salt and 1/4 cup cream of tartar. Shake or stir well. Pour 1/4 cup of the cleaning mixture into the drain, add 1 cup boiling water, wait a few minutes until bubbling subsides, then flush thoroughly with cold water. Or, a few times a week, empty a tea kettle full of boiling water down your drain followed by a little salt OR pour 3 tablespoons of sodium carbonate (washing soda) down drain and run a slow stream of hot tap water. <b>To clean a grease-clogged drain</b> , pour 1 cup of salt and 1 cup of baking soda down the drain, followed by a kettleful of boiling water. <b>To loosen blockage</b> , mix 1 cup each of baking soda, salt and white vinegar and pour down drain. Wait 15 minutes. Flush down drain thoroughly with 2 quarts boiling water. Use a rubber plunger or plumber's snake if drain is seriously clogged.
Cleaners - Eyeglasses	To remove all residue, including hairspray, wet the lenses, rub shaving cream ( <i>see homemade recipe under Cleaners-Upholstery</i> ) on with your fingers, rinse off. Dry with a lint-free cloth. Or, mix together 8 ounces nonsudsing ammonia and 32 ounces denatured alcohol. Put into small spray bottle. (Also good for cleaning small kitchen appliances, chrome and greasy fixtures.) Or, use a drop of vinegar or vodka on each lens.
Cleaners - Fiberglass Shower/Tub	Saturate a cloth with vinegar and sprinkle with baking soda, then use it to clean fiberglass tubs and showers. Rinse well and rub dry for a spotless shine.
Cleaners - Floor	Vacuum regularly to remove surface dirt. Clean never- and no-wax vinyl floors with 1/2 cup vinegar in a half pail of hot water. No rinse needed. <b>For very dirty floors:</b> Run 2 gallons of warm water into a pail. Stir in a 1/2 cup of borax and 1 to 2 tablespoons of ammonia. <b>Hardwood floors</b> can be cleaned using a tea solution. Pour a quart of boiling water over two tea bags. Let the water steep and cool to room temperature. Dampen a cloth in the tea, then damp mop the floor. <b>Polyurethaned wood floors:</b> Mop with a solution of 1/2 cup white vinegar to 1/2 gallon water, rinsing and wringing the mop well and often. Dry immediately with a clean cloth.
Cleaners - General Household	Rub dry baking soda on areas or mix 1/4 cup baking soda, 1/2 cup white vinegar, and 1 cup of ammonia into a bucket of warm water and stir until the baking soda dissolves. Or, pour 1/2 cup ammonia and 1 cup sodium carbonate (washing soda) into a clean plastic gallon jug. Add 2 cups warm water, cover and shake. Then add 12 more cups water. <i>Label the jug as a cleaner.</i> Use 1/2 cup to a bucket of water for large jobs, full-strength in a spray bottle for appliances and tile. Clean <b>stainless steel sinks</b> with a paste of white vinegar and baking soda. Club soda will shine up stainless steel in a jiffy. <i>Also see Cleaners - Appliances.</i>
Cleaners - Glass/Plexiglas Tabletops	Mix 1 capful of fabric softener in a gallon of water in a plastic bucket, and sponge the tabletops with this lint-free cleanser. <i>Also see Cleaners - Window.</i>
Cleaners - Oil Paintings	Buy a loaf of unsliced white bread, take a large pinch out of the center of the loaf, wad it up and 'erase' the dirt on the painting. This method is for newer oils only. Centuries old paintings should be cleaned by a professional.
Cleaners - Oven	Wipe away grease and spills after preparing each meal. Wipe away charred spills with a nonmetallic bristle brush. <b>To remove baked on grease and spills</b> , scrub with a baking soda, salt and water paste. Or, sprinkle with dry baking soda; scrub with a damp cloth after 5 minutes. Or, mix 2 tablespoons liquid soap, 2 teaspoons each borax and warm water. Or, combine vinegar and baking soda, then scrub. ( <i>Don't let baking soda touch wires or heating elements</i> ). Scour racks and burner inserts with steel wool. Or, set your oven on warm for about 20 minutes, then turn the heat off. Place a small dish of full-strength ammonia on the top shelf and a large pan of boiling water on the bottom shelf. Close the oven door and leave overnight. In the morning, open the oven door and let air for a few minutes. Then wash all surfaces with hot, soapy water. For future spills, sprinkle immediately with table salt. When the oven is cool, wipe with a damp sponge. <b>Barbeque grill grates:</b> Tear off a sheet of heavy-duty aluminum foil large enough to completely cover your grill grate. Press foil shiny side down on grate and fold sides under, covering as tightly as possible. When coals have nearly reached their hottest point, place grill grate over coals for ten minutes. Remove foil and any charred grease or food on your grill should drop off leaving your grill clean and shiny. Or, put the grate into a lawn/leaf bag, pour 1 cup of ammonia inside, and close up tightly with a bag tie. Next day wipe off the "soap" with rags or paper towels and scrub what remains with steel wool. Hint: Before ever using your barbeque grill, spray it heavily with vegetable oil. <i>To degrease and clean barbeque grill:</i> Make a paste by mixing equal parts baking soda and water, apply with a wire brush, wipe clean, and dry with a cloth. <b>Restaurant grills:</b> Pour leftover brewed coffee on a hot or cold grill and wipe clean.

## ALTERNATIVE CLEANING METHODS

Cleaning Products	Solutions or Alternatives
Cleaners - Paint Brushes/Rollers	A new paint brush will last longer and be much easier to clean if it soaks in a can of linseed oil for 12 hours before it is ever used. <i>To soften hard paint on brushes</i> , soak in hot vinegar. Follow with a wash in warm, sudsy water. After washing brushes and rollers, use a fabric softener in the final rinse water. They will stay soft and pliable.
Cleaners - Piano Keys	Apply regular (non-gel) toothpaste to a well dampened cloth. Rub the keys well, wipe dry and buff with a dry soft cloth.
Cleaners - Playing Cards	Place the deck of cards into a paper bag, adding 4 tablespoons cornstarch or flour and shake briskly. Remove the cards from the bag and wipe clean.
Cleaners - Silk Flowers	Mix 1/4 cup fabric softener with 2 cups water. Put in a spray bottle and spray until dripping, then let dry. Or, pour some salt into a large paper bag with the flowers. Shake vigorously.
Cleaners - Sponge	<i>To renew and freshen</i> , soak overnight in salt or baking soda water. Or, wash in dishwasher's silverware compartment.
Cleaners - Shower Curtains	Fill the washing machine with warm water and add 2 large bath towels (do not omit towels). Add 1/2 cup each of detergent and baking soda. Run through entire wash cycle, but add 1 cup vinegar to the rinse water. Do not spin dry or wash vinegar out. Hang immediately; wrinkles will disappear after curtain has thoroughly dried. <i>Also see Removal - Mildew. To keep shower curtains sliding easily</i> , apply a thin coat of petroleum jelly to the curtain rod.
Cleaners - Stuffed Toys	Rub in dry cornstarch, let stand 15 minutes and brush off.
Cleaners - Telephone	Clean with isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol applied to cotton ball. <i>Also see Cleaners - Computer Keyboard.</i>
Cleaners - Toilet Bowl	Put 3 tablespoons of powdered instant orange breakfast drink into toilet bowl at bedtime. Let soak, then scrub with a long-handled brush and flush. Or, pour a can of carbonated cola into the bowl, let sit for 1 hour, then brush and flush clean. Or, in medium-size bowl, blend 1 tablespoon of lavender essential oil, 1 teaspoon of rosemary essential oil, 1-1/2 cups of baking soda, and 1 teaspoon of peppermint essential oil. Sprinkle 1/2 cup of this mixture into toilet bowl, and set its bubbling action into gear with a toilet brush. NOTE: This mixture can also be used to remove grease stains. <b>Toilet Rings:</b> Flush toilet to wet sides. Apply a thick paste of borax and lemon juice. Let set for 2 hours and then scrub thoroughly. Or, pour a cup of vinegar into the bowl, and let it set overnight. Then scrub.
Cleaners - Upholstery	Remove stubborn stains by applying undiluted white vinegar to the stain, then wash as directed by the manufacturer's instructions. NOTE: Shaving cream is a useful upholstery cleaner for new stains and ordinary dirt. Make your own by mixing 1/2 cup mild detergent with 2 cups boiling water. Cool until it forms into jelly, then whip with a hand beater for a good stiff foam. <b>Cotton:</b> Rub the soiled areas with artgum squares. <b>Leather:</b> Clean with a damp cloth and saddle soap. Prevent leather from cracking by polishing regularly with a paste made of 1 part vinegar and 2 parts linseed oil. <b>Vinyl:</b> Body oil will cause vinyl to become hard so it should be cleaned once in a while. Never oil because vinyl will become hard. If this happens it is almost impossible to soften it again. For proper cleaning, sprinkle baking soda or vinegar on a rough damp cloth. Then, wash with a very mild dishwashing soap. <i>Also see Miscellaneous Remedies - Leather/Vinyl.</i>
Cleaners - Varnished Wood	Cold tea is a good cleaning agent for any kind of woodwork. <i>See Cleaners - Floor for recipe.</i>
Cleaners - Walls	Run 2 gallons of warm water into a pail. Stir in a 1/2 cup of borax and 1 to 2 tablespoons of ammonia. Or, combine 1/2 cup ammonia, 1/4 cup white vinegar, 1/4 cup sodium carbonate (washing soda) and 1 gallon warm water. Wash walls from the bottom up. <b>Rough walls:</b> Use old nylon men's socks (won't shred or come apart as you work). <i>Also see Removal - Crayon Marks &amp; Removal - Mildew.</i>
Cleaners - Window	Measure 3 tablespoons ammonia, 1 tablespoon white vinegar, and 3/4 cup water into a clean spray bottle. Or, combine 2 cups water, 1/2 cup isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol, 2 tablespoons plain ammonia and 2 tablespoons white vinegar in a spray bottle. Shake well before using. Or, use a solution of 2 tablespoons vinegar and 1 quart water. Or, 1/2 cup each ammonia, isopropyl rubbing alcohol, and water. Or, in spray bottle mix 3 cups distilled vinegar, 1/3 cup of white vinegar and 5 drops each of eucalyptus and sage essential oils. Tighten the lid, and shake well before you take aim at the window pane. Polish with a clean, dry cloth. This mix will last for up to 6 months. For fast clean-ups, wash with a cloth soaked in white vinegar. This method is great when washing only a few indoor windows. Shine with lint-free newspaper or coffee filters instead of paper towels. Or, after windows have dried, rub a clean blackboard eraser over them for a really fine shine. <b>"Frosted" windows sprayed from automatic water sprinkler:</b> To 1/4 cup acidic liquid such as vinegar or lemon juice, add 1 teaspoon alum. Saturate a "window wipe" with the liquid and rub off the deposits. Polish with wadded-up newspaper. Can also use to treat hard water deposits from shower/bath glass and tile. <b>Grease spots:</b> Wash down with any regular cola drink. <i>Also see Cleaners-Ceramic Tile &amp; Tub (shower door) &amp; Removal - Calcium/Lime Deposits.</i>

## ALTERNATIVE CLEANING METHODS

Cleaning Products	Solutions or Alternatives
Cleaners - Window Shades/Screens	Rub unwashable window <b>shades</b> with a rough flannel cloth that has been dipped in flour or cornmeal. A soft eraser may remove spots and stains. Keep parchment shades clean by waxing them. A paint roller will remove most dust, dirt and lint from wire window <b>screens</b> .
Cleaners - Window Sills	To clean spotted window sills, pour a little diluted isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol on a soft cloth and rub the entire surface. The spots will not only disappear, but the sills will look freshly painted.
Cleaners - Windshield	Sprinkle a little baking soda onto a damp sponge or dissolve 2 tablespoons in a bucket of water. Then wipe splatters and grime away. <b>Bug remover/splatter:</b> Nylon netting (from old onion bags) makes an ideal bug remover for car windshields and grilles. <b>Smoky film:</b> Pour a can of coke on outside of your windshield and rinse away. <i>To prevent ice from forming on a car windshield overnight,</i> coat the window with a solution of 3 parts white or cider vinegar to 1 part water.
Dish Detergent: Grease Cutter	Add 1/2 cup baking soda or 2 to 3 tablespoons of vinegar to usual amount of liquid dishwashing detergents.
Disinfectants and Germicides	Wash items with soap and water. Washing in borax or sodium carbonate (washing soda) will also work.
Fabric Dye	Soak the fabric in a bucket of strong black coffee for a brown dye. This technique is also a good way to cover up an unremovable coffee stain on a white tablecloth. <i>Also see Stain Removal - Clothing (Yellowing).</i>
Fabric Softener	Vinegar naturally breaks down uric acid and soapy residue, leaving bath towels, baby clothes and diapers soft and fresh. Add 1/4 cup of white vinegar to a washing machine's final rinse. Vinegar smell goes away as the clothes dry.
Floor Wax and Strippers	<b>To polish linoleum and vinyl floors without commercial wax,</b> mix 1 part thick boiled starch with 1 part soap suds. Rub the mixture on the floor, and polish dry with a clean, soft dry cloth. <b>To remove old wax,</b> pour a small amount of club soda on a section of floor. Scrub well; let soak for a few minutes, then wipe clean.
Furniture Restorative	To improve the look of wooden surfaces that have gotten dark or cloudy with age, combine 1 part each boiled linseed oil, turpentine and vinegar and shake well. Apply with a soft cloth and wipe completely dry. With a second clean cloth, wipe again. (Don't boil linseed oil. Buy it labeled boiled at a hardware or paint store and use as is.) <i>Caution: Work in a well-ventilated room and wear rubber gloves.</i>
Grease Fire	Douse with baking soda. <i>To prevent grease fires in barbecue grills,</i> cover bottom of grill with a three-quarter inch layer of unused kitty litter.
Hand Cleaner: Paint/Grease	Rub baby oil onto hands. Wipe hands with a dry cloth. Then, wash hands with hand soap. Or, a dab of oily hair shampoo cuts through grime on your hands.
Laundry detergent	Basic soap. For cleaner work clothes, add 1/2 cup of household ammonia to the wash water.
Metal Cleaners/Polish	<b>Brass:</b> Clean with Worcestershire sauce or catsup. Or, coat tarnished surface with lemon juice, then sprinkle with salt, scrub gently, then rinse with water. Or, try a lemon half dipped in salt. If stains are stubborn, use a paste of equal parts of flour and salt moistened with vinegar. Then, wash with soap and water, rinse and wipe dry with a soft cloth. Hint: To keep metal from tarnishing quickly, protect with a clear coat of lacquer. When lacquer becomes chipped or dull, it can be removed with denatured alcohol, the metal cleaned and then re-lacquered. <b>Chrome:</b> Use apple cider vinegar to clean; then use baby oil to polish. Or, use a cloth dampened in ammonia or isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol for a no-streak shine. Use a piece of crumpled-up aluminum foil to polish chrome parts on car bumpers, strollers, highchairs and playpens. <i>Also see Cleaners-Appliances (Exterior) cleaning formula.</i> <b>Coins:</b> Clean with vinegar or rub with ashes to remove the tarnish. Pennies look like new almost immediately by rubbing with a mixture of white vinegar with generous portions of salt. Be aware that cleaning numismatic value ruins them, so if this is a concern, just clean with soap and water. <b>Copper:</b> Dip lemon halves in salt and rub tarnish off. Or, fill a spray bottle with vinegar and add 3 tablespoons of salt. Spray solution liberally on copper pot. Let set for a while, then simply rub clean. Or, rub with Worcestershire sauce or catsup. Or, smear a coating of plain yogurt over tarnish, leave for 5 minutes, then rinse under tap water. Especially good on copper-bottom pans. <b>Costume Jewelry:</b> Place a piece of chalk in your jewelry box to prevent tarnishing. <b>Gold:</b> Shine with regular (non-gel) toothpaste. <b>Pewter:</b> Rub with raw cabbage leaves and buff with a soft cloth. Or, try a homemade mixture of wood ashes moistened with water. <b>Silver:</b> Shine with regular (non-gel) toothpaste. <b>Silverware:</b> Line the bottom of a nonaluminum container (like a glass baking dish) with aluminum foil. Sprinkle 4 tablespoons of baking soda onto the foil and place the tarnished silver in the container. Be sure each utensil comes in contact with the foil. Pour in 1 gallon of boiling water, wait about two minutes and then remove the silver with tongs. Wipe with a clean, dry cloth to remove loosened tarnish, then wash in warm soapy water. (continued)

## ALTERNATIVE CLEANING METHODS

Cleaning Products	Solutions or Alternatives
Metal Cleaners/Polish (continued)	<i>(Silverware continued)</i> If the silver is badly tarnished, you may have to repeat the procedure. Or, pour water into an aluminum or enameled pan covered with aluminum foil. Fill pan to depth of 2-3 inches of water (enough to cover silver with water). Add 1 teaspoon each baking soda and salt and heat until water boils. Add tarnished silver and boil 3 minutes. Remove silver, wash in soapy water and polish dry. <i>(Not for use on silver jewelry or flatware with hollow handles.)</i> Or, polish with regular (non-gel) toothpaste. <b>Stainless steel:</b> Remove spots with isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol or white vinegar. Or, make a paste from lemon juice and salt, scrub gently, then rinse with water. Use mineral oil to polish; buff off with a soft cloth.
Miscellaneous Remedies - Chamois	To renovate stiffened chamois, soak in warm water to which a spoonful or so of olive oil has been added.
Miscellaneous Remedies - Leather	To condition a leather saddle and other leather items, use conditioning hairdressing. Protect shoes and boots from winter salt and ice by rubbing in conditioning hairdressing. Petroleum jelly, rubbed into a baseball glove, softens the leather. Also, to break in a baseball glove, rub the center of the glove with conditioning hairdressing, place a baseball in the glove, fold the mitt around it, and secure with rubber bands. Tuck the glove under a mattress overnight.
Miscellaneous Remedies - Vinyl	<b>To prolong the useful life and prevent stiffness/cracking of vinyl shower curtains and tablecloths:</b> In washing machine, wash vinyl item in warm water, adding 2 tablespoons of glycerin to the final rinse. The glycerin will help soften the plastic. <i>Remove wrinkles from plastic tablecloths or shower curtains</i> by blowing a hairdryer set on High until the plastic softens.
Mothball	Place cedar chips or sprigs of dried tansy, contained in an old nylon stocking, around clothes or store clothes in cedar chest or hang in closet. Put whole cloves in pockets of woolen coats or in bags with sweaters when storing for the off season.
Plaster Remedy	<i>To help postpone replastering when ceiling cracks appear,</i> mix some household glue with baking soda, making a paste. Apply to cracks with fingers. If the ceiling is colored, add food coloring to match. Use a small dab of regular (non-gel) toothpaste as emergency spackling to fill in small holes in plaster walls. Let dry before painting. <i>To eliminate excess plaster,</i> apply plaster as usual to cracks or small holes, and then brush over the area with a wet paintbrush.
Polish - Furniture	<b>Lacquered:</b> Wash black lacquered pieces with strong brewed tea, then wipe dry with a soft cloth. <b>Wood:</b> Use olive oil, lemon oil or beeswax. Or, mix 1 tablespoon lemon oil and 1 pint mineral oil in a spray bottle. Shake very well and apply to furniture with a soft cloth. Wipe it dry, and follow up with another soft cloth. <b>To remove polish build-up:</b> Mix 1/2 cup vinegar and 1/2 cup water. Rub with a soft cloth that has been moistened with solution, but wrung out. Dry immediately with another soft cloth. <i>Also see Removal - Scratches.</i>
Polish - Shoe	Rub a dab of moisturizing hand lotion, lip balm or petroleum jelly on each shoe and buff thoroughly. Or, rub shoes with the inside of banana peel. <b>Patent leather:</b> Rub with a dab of petroleum jelly or conditioning hairdressing, buff with a soft cloth for a nice shine. <i>Remove scuff marks from white patent:</i> Rub regular (non-gel) toothpaste on scuff. <b>Baby shoes:</b> If shoes are scuffed badly and do not seem to take the polish, rub them with a piece of raw potato or isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol before polishing. Or, to remove scuff marks from all shoes, apply a regular (non-gel) toothpaste with a tissue, rub and wipe off. <i>Prevent squeaking</i> by giving squeaky shoes a coat of conditioning hairdressing. <i>Also see Miscellaneous Remedies - Leather.</i>
Prewash (clothes)	Combine 1/4 cup household ammonia, 1/2 cup dishwashing liquid and 1 cup water in a spray bottle. Spray the spot or soiled area, rub and toss into the washer. <b>Ring around collar:</b> Use a small paint brush and brush hair shampoo into soiled shirt collars before laundering. Or, mark heavily with chalk. The chalk will absorb the oils and the dirt will come off easily. If the yellow line has been there for a while, several applications may be needed. If new, one application should do it. Or, apply a paste of vinegar and baking soda. Rub in and wash as usual. <b>Whiten socks:</b> Put socks in a big pot on the stove top, cover with water and add half a lemon to the water. Boil until whitened. Then put through regular washload.
Removal - Burnt/Scorched Pans	Sprinkle burnt <b>pans/pots</b> liberally with baking soda, adding just enough water to moisten. Let stand for several hours. You can generally lift the burned portion right out of the pan. Stubborn stains on non-stick cookware can be removed by boiling 2 tablespoons of baking soda, 1/2 cup vinegar and 1 cup water for 10 minutes. Re-season pan with salad oil. Clean <b>food-stained</b> pots and pans by filling with vinegar and let stand for 30 minutes. Then rinse in hot, soapy water. <b>Broiler pan:</b> Sprinkle the hot pan heavily with dry laundry detergent. Cover with a dampened paper towel and let the burned food set for a while. The pan should require little scouring. <b>Casserole dish:</b> Fill with boiling water and add 2 tablespoons of baking soda or salt. Let stand for a half hour. Wash with dish detergent.

## ALTERNATIVE CLEANING METHODS

Cleaning Products	Solutions or Alternatives
Removal - Calcium/Lime Deposits	<p><b>Aluminum saucepan, coffeepots and teapots:</b> Bring a solution of 1 cup vinegar and 4 tablespoons baking soda OR equal parts vinegar and water to a boil and allow to stand overnight. Or, pour in 3 cups of water and 1 cup of wine vinegar, and boil this solution in the kettle for a few minutes. Turn off, don't pour it out. Leave overnight, and clean out in the morning. <b>Clean water channels of pump-feed drip coffeemakers:</b> Run a quart of half vinegar, half water solution through a brewing cycle, followed by two cycles with plain water. <b>Clogged shower heads:</b> Simmer in 1/2 cup vinegar and 1 quart water for 15 minutes, test the holes with a toothpick to make sure the holes are unclogged, and rinse well before putting the head back. <i>For plastic shower heads, soak in equal amounts of vinegar and hot water.</i> <b>Cloudy, spotted or streaked glass bakeware, cookware and coffee makers from hard water:</b> Soak the items in a solution of 1/2 cup vinegar to a gallon of water. After a while, wash in detergent and hot water, then rinse. Or, using automatic dishwasher, first wash in regular dishwashing cycle. Remove all metal items like flatware and pans and stand a 2-cup Pyrex measuring cup filled with white vinegar on the dishwasher's bottom rack. Using no detergent, put the dishes through another cycle. <i>To prevent soapy film on glassware, place a cup of white vinegar on the bottom rack of your dishwasher, run for 5 minutes, then run through the full cycle. To prevent water spots on glassware, add 1 tablespoon of borax to your usual dishwasher detergent.</i> <b>"Frosted" windows sprayed from automatic water sprinkler:</b> To 1/4 cup acidic liquid such as vinegar or lemon juice, add 1 teaspoon alum. Saturate a "window wipe" with the liquid and rub off the deposits. Polish with wadded-up newspaper. Can also use to treat hard water deposits from shower/bath glass and tile. <i>Also see Cleaners - Ceramic Tile &amp; Tub/Window.</i> Clean the filter on your <b>humidifier</b> by removing it and soaking it in a pan of white vinegar until all the sediment is off. <b>Steam Iron:</b> Fill water tank with white vinegar. Turn the iron to steam setting and steam-iron a soft utility rag to clean the steam ports. Repeat the process with water, then thoroughly rinse out the inside of your iron with clear water.</p>
Removal - Candle Wax Drippings	<p><b>Candle holders:</b> Place in the freezer for an hour or so. Peel wax off. Or, run under very hot water and dry with a paper towel. Hint: To discourage candle wax from sticking to candle holders, coat the insides of candle holders with petroleum jelly or conditioning hairdressing so wax slides out. <b>Carpet:</b> Place a blotter or brown paper bag over the spot and put a hot iron over the blotter for a few minutes. Move paper to a clean spot. Repeat, if necessary. Or, rub an ice cube wrapped in plastic over the spill, then scrape the hardened wax off with a nonstick spatula or plastic credit card. <b>Counter top/Table:</b> Using hairdryer, blow warm air an inch above the drips, then wipe away the wax with a paper towel. <b>Furniture: Lacquered -</b> Rub an ice cube wrapped in plastic over the spill, then scrape the hardened wax off with a nonstick spatula or plastic credit card. <i>Wood finish -</i> Soften the wax with a hair dryer. Remove wax with paper towel and wash down with a solution of vinegar and water. <b>Linens:</b> Scrape solid wax off with a dull knife or plastic credit card. Then, place several sheets of paper towel under and over the spot. Place a warm iron over the spot for 30-45 seconds; moving the paper towel to a clean area each time the iron is placed on the fabric to absorb the wax.</p>
Removal - Carpet Crush Marks	<p>Make seltzer water ice cubes. Place the frozen seltzer cubes on the indentations made on a carpet by heavy furniture. The next day when the cubes have melted, the nap of the carpeting will have risen. Or, build up a good steam with a steam iron. Hold over the damaged spot. Do not touch the carpet with the iron. Brush briskly.</p>
Removal - Cellophane Tape	<p>Put a blotter against the tape and gently "press" with a warm iron.</p>
Removal - Ceramic (Cracks)	<p><i>To make a slight crack in a dish or plate disappear, mix 1-1/3 cups nonfat dry milk with 3-3/4 cups water. Place the dish or plate in a pan, cover with the milk solution, then bring to a boil and simmer for 45 minutes at low heat. In most cases, the crack will vanish.</i></p>
Removal - Chewing Gum	<p><b>Fabric:</b> Loosen gum by soaking in full-strength white vinegar or rubbing with egg white before laundering. Or, apply ice to the gum or place clothing in plastic bag and freeze for several hours. Use a dull knife to scrape off the gum. <b>Furniture/Carpet:</b> Rub with an ice cube to harden, then scrape with a plastic credit card or nonstick spatula. <b>Hair:</b> Rub in a dab of peanut butter or petroleum jelly or a dollop of mayonnaise. Massage the gum and peanut butter, petroleum jelly or mayonnaise between your fingers until the gum is loosened. Remove with facial tissue. Or, freeze the hair with ice cubes and peel gum off.</p>
Removal - Cigarette Burns	<p><b>Furniture:</b> For small burns, try rubbing mayonnaise into the burn. Let set for a while before wiping off with a soft cloth. Or, make a paste of rottenstone (at hardware stores) and salad oil. Rub into the burned spot only, following the grain of the wood. Wipe clean with a cloth that has been dampened in oil. Wipe dry and apply furniture polish.</p>

## ALTERNATIVE CLEANING METHODS

Cleaning Products	Solutions or Alternatives
Removal - Crayon Marks	<b>Blackboard:</b> Place a piece of clean blotting paper (tape each corner) over the mark and apply a hot iron. Move blotting paper each time you apply iron. <b>Brick/Slate/Wallpaper:</b> Knead an art-gum eraser until pliable, then press it against the crayon marks and "pull" them off. Continue kneading and pressing until all the marks are removed. Or, from wallpaper, take a dry soap-filled scouring pad and rub the area lightly. <b>Fabric:</b> Scrape off as much wax as possible using a dull knife, spoon or plastic credit card. Apply just enough lubricating oil spray (for squeaks) to cover the stain. Don't oversaturate. Let it set for 2 or 3 minutes. Gently scrub the area, using a toothbrush or other small, stiff-bristle brush, working from the outside in so the stain doesn't spread. Blot with paper towels, then apply another touch of oil spray and several drops of dishwashing (not dishwasher) liquid. ( <i>Test the soap first on a hidden area for colorfastness.</i> ) Work in with the brush. Lastly, use a water-dampened sponge to wipe away all traces of soap and oil. Repeat the process if any stain remains. <b>Furniture:</b> Scrape with a nonstick spatula or plastic credit card. <b>Painted walls/woodwork:</b> Rub the mark gently with a clean, damp cloth sprinkled with dry baking soda. Or, dip an old toothbrush in a small bowl of regular (non-gel) toothpaste with a bit of water, then scrub gently in a circular motion.
Removal - Decal/Bumper Sticker	Soak in or sponge on a coat of white vinegar. <b>Wood surface:</b> Paint with several coats of white vinegar. Let soak in, then gently scrape off. <b>Bumper sticker:</b> Try soaking with hot water, then use a plastic pot scrubber on it. <i>Also see Removal - Sticker Residue on Plastic.</i>
Removal - Detergent Residue	Hard water can wreak havoc on wash loads causing clothes and towels to feel scratchy and stiff. Soak towels in a basin or tub of plain water and 2 cups of vinegar for a quarter of an hour. Then launder and dry as usual. Or, wash items in the washer, replacing detergent with 1/2 cup ammonia plus 1 cup nonprecipitating water conditioner (such as Calgon). Don't use a fabric softener. Follow with one or more rinses in clear water. Repeat the entire process until rinse water is clear. <b>Prevent fading or running:</b> Add 1 teaspoon of epsom salts to a gallon of rinse water. Or, soak article in white vinegar for 10 minutes before washing. <i>Also see Stain Removal - Clothing (Yellowing).</i>
Removal - Glue	<b>Carpet:</b> Saturate spot with a cloth soaked in white vinegar. <b>Hard surface:</b> Dip a washcloth in hot soapy water and place it over the glue (also super-hold glue). Repeat every 15 to 20 minutes so the compress stays warm enough to soften the glue. This should take several hours, but once the glue is soft, you can peel it right off with your fingernail. Or, saturate with a cloth soaked in vinegar. Airplane or cement glue can be removed from wooden furniture by rubbing with cold cream, peanut butter or salad oil. <b>Loosen wood joints:</b> Put vinegar in a small oil can and apply liberally to joints to loosen old glue.
Removal - Grease	Sprinkle borax on a damp cloth and rub area. Or, empty a can of carbonated cola into a load of greasy work clothes, add detergent, and run through a regular wash cycle. Or, in medium-size bowl, blend 1 tablespoon of lavender essential oil, 1 teaspoon each of rosemary and peppermint essential oils and 1-1/2 cups of baking soda. Sprinkle a little of this mixture onto a sponge dampened with warm water. NOTE: This mixture can also be used for cleaning toilets. An effective and non-abrasive grease remover is ordinary shampoo. It can be used on many surfaces, from bathroom utilities to skin. Or, rub the floor immediately with ice cubes to solidify the grease. Scrape up the excess, and then wash with soapy water. <i>Also see Cleaners - Concrete Drive/Toilets or Windows &amp; Removal - Oil, Motor &amp; Stain Removal - Grease Spots.</i>
Removal - Hairspray/Conditioner	Use isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol to remove hairspray from mirrors. <b>To remove hairspray and conditioner build-up on hair,</b> combine 1 gallon distilled water, 1 cup lemon juice (fresh or bottled) and 1 cup epsom salts. Cap the mixture and let it sit 24 hours. Pour into your hair and leave on about 20 minutes, then shampoo.
Removal - Hem Crease	Sponge material liberally or dampen a pressing cloth with white vinegar and press with a warm iron.
Removal - Iron Residue	<b>Spray starch residue:</b> Spray some prewash spray (see Prewash-Clothes recipe) on a cloth and rub the soleplate with it. Let the iron sit for a while, then scrub off the residue with a plastic vegetable scrubber or an old toothbrush. Or, run the iron over a piece of aluminum foil. <b>Sticky brown/ burned on residue:</b> For metal soleplates, rub with a heated solution of vinegar and salt. Or, apply nonabrasive household cleaner, mild detergent or baking-soda paste to the surface and rub well. Or, sprinkle salt on a piece of paper and run your sticky iron over it a few times while the iron is hot. <b>Wax buildup:</b> Rub off with very fine sandpaper. Next, polish with a piece of fine soapless steel wool, then wipe off with a damp cloth. For nonstick-coated soleplate, clean with a solution of 1 tablespoon vinegar and 1 cup water. NOTE: After cleaning iron, always be sure to burst steam through the vents onto a cloth several times to remove any cleanser residue that can stain clothing. <b>Clean outside of iron:</b> Clean with regular (non-gel) toothpaste on a soft cloth.

## ALTERNATIVE CLEANING METHODS

Cleaning Products	Solutions or Alternatives
Removal - Light Bulbs	<i>To prevent outdoor light bulbs from sticking in fixtures, rub a thin coat of petroleum jelly on the threads before inserting the bulbs.</i>
Removal - Lint	<i>To remove lint from corduroy, wash and allow to dry very slowly. While clothing is still damp, brush with a clothes brush. All the lint will come off, but clothing must be damp. To eliminate the lint problem, add 1 cup white vinegar to the final rinse cycle. Or, put a yard of nylon netting into the dryer with wet clothes to act as a lint catcher.</i>
Removal - Mildew	<p><b>Aluminum/painted surfaces:</b> Dampen (not dripping) a rag, dip it in baking soda and scrub it off. If mildew is particularly built up on the glass, aluminum window frame and the rubber window fitting, use dampened (not dripping) No. 0000 steel wool dipped in baking soda to gently scrub it off. When surfaces are clean, wipe them down with another damp rag, and then dry them thoroughly with a clean, soft cloth. Depending on the problem area, good ventilation or dehumidifying equipment is a must, as well as after each shower, squeegeeing and wiping down shower walls with an old towel. <b>Bathtub:</b> Pour unused kitty litter in a flat box and place in your bathtub when you leave your house for a long time to prevent mildew. <b>Book covers:</b> Apply denatured alcohol with a sponge to the stains, and then place the books in the sunlight. <b>Book pages/papers:</b> Sometimes mildew can be removed by a good dusting with cornstarch. Allow the powder to remain on for several days before giving it the brush-off outdoors. <i>Prevention:</i> Put a piece of charcoal or chalk in a closed bookcase to absorb moisture. Take <b>clothing</b> outside and brush off the mildew (otherwise mildew spores will fly around the house looking for new places to grow). When you are done, wash the brush. Let the garments hang in the sun and air. Then take them to the dry cleaners or, if they are washable, wash them, but don't use starch or fabric softener if clothes are going to be stored for long periods of time. If the item is not cleaned, the fabric will have a musty odor and will discolor and decompose the fabric as the mold feeds on the material. <i>On colored, delicate, and household fabrics,</i> dampen the fabric, then rub the area with bar soap until a film develops. Let it dry in the sun, and wash as usual. (You might have to wash it several times to get the whole stain out.) <i>To help prevent dampness in a closet,</i> fill a coffee can with charcoal briquets. Punch holes in the cover and place the container on the floor. For larger closets, use 2 or 3 one-pound coffee cans. Or, tie together a handful of chalk and hang the bundle from the clothes rod to absorb moisture. <b>Fiberglass (e.g. shower stalls):</b> Scrub gently with baking soda on a wet sponge, rinse, and dry. <b>Outdoor plastic furniture:</b> Wash your furniture with white vinegar and rinse well. Always dry thoroughly to help prevent regrowth. <b>Refrigerator:</b> To prevent mildew from forming, wipe with vinegar. <b>Shower curtains:</b> To prevent mildew, soak in a solution of salt water before hanging them for use. Use baking soda to remove mildew from small areas. <i>For stubborn stains on light colored curtains,</i> wash according to directions under <i>Cleaners - Shower Curtains,</i> followed by a rub-down with lemon juice. <b>Tile:</b> Dip a lemon in borax powder and rub. <i>For caulking around tubs and shower,</i> isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol is the best. <b>Wall:</b> Scrub with a mixture of equal parts ammonia and water. <b>Wood:</b> Sprinkle a little oil of cloves on the wood and rub it in to stop mildew. <i>Also see Spot Remover - Mildew.</i></p>
Removal - Odors	<p><b>Bath towel odor:</b> Add borax to the wash cycle and vinegar to the rinse cycle. Or, add 1 cup of white vinegar and 1/2 cup sodium carbonate (washing soda) to your wash water. Let the towels soak for a couple of hours and then wash as usual but DON'T use fabric softener, use white vinegar in rinse dispenser. <b>Drain (Floor/Sink):</b> Remove all the gunky buildup in your drain. Pour in a 1/2 cup of baking soda and 1 cup of vinegar; let the mixture bubble and fizz. Rinse with hot water for several minutes. <b>Fish:</b> To remove strong fish odors from hands, rub them with a stainless steel tablespoon under running water as if you were using a bar of soap. Or, wash hands in lemon juice or shaving cream or with used (cooled) coffee grounds, rubbing your hands with grounds for a few minutes, then wash with soap and water. <b>Food containers:</b> To absorb unpleasant or soaked-in odors from large pickle jars, coffee tins, etc. in order to reuse for storage containers, crumple up a small amount of newspaper and stuff in jar. Cap and let stand 24 hours or so until the smell goes away Or, mix 1/4 cup of baking soda with 1 quart water, swish food containers in solution, soak overnight, then rinse clean. Or, rinse with undiluted white vinegar. <b>Freezer odor:</b> Fill a saucer with freeze-dried coffee and place in freezer or put vanilla extract on a cloth and wipe the freezer. <b>Garbage disposal:</b> Scrub the underside of splash guard well with a stiff-bristle brush and baking soda. Then follow the above Drain (Floor/Sink) directions for cleaning the drain. To keep the smell away, repeat process every few weeks <i>Also see Air Fresheners and Deodorizers.</i> <b>Humidifier:</b> Pour 3 to 4 teaspoons lemon juice into the water. <b>Oil:</b> Wash hands with shaving cream. <b>Onion or other strong odors:</b> Wash your hands in lemon juice. Or, rub hands briskly with a metal spoon under running water. <i>Also see Air Fresheners and Deodorizers.</i> <b>Perspiration odor:</b> Soak affected garments in a basin or pail with warm salt water. For each quart of water you use, add 3 or 4 tablespoons of salt. Leave overnight, and rinse out thoroughly the next day. If you detect an odor, rub the area with blue liquid "heavy-duty" detergent, leave for 30 minutes, and then rinse with hot water. Or, dab with a sponge dipped in 3% hydrogen peroxide. Leave for 15 to 20 minutes, rinse and repeat if you observe an improvement. <i>Another alternative:</i> rub baking soda into the offending areas, either alone or blended with soap. (continued)</p>

## ALTERNATIVE CLEANING METHODS

Cleaning Products	Solutions or Alternatives
Removal - Odors (continued)	<b>Perspiration Odor (continued)</b> This technique also works for dry-cleanables as well as washables. Or, add 2/3 cup of borax in the wash cycle, with no pre-soaking necessary. Or, use vinegar in water cycle. <b>Pet odor:</b> Place a box of baking soda in room or dab the offending area with diluted or straight white or cider vinegar. Or, to mop up an accident, add 2 tablespoons of citronella oil (from drug store) and 1/2 cup isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol to 1 gallon water. <i>Also see Stain Removal - Urine.</i> <b>Stale Lunchbox:</b> Soak a paper napkin in vinegar and leave it inside the closed lunch box overnight. <b>"Sour" Baby Bottles:</b> Scrub interior with regular (non-gel) toothpaste and bottle brush. <b>Vomit:</b> Dilute a couple of table-spoons of baking soda in 1 pint of water. This gets rid of odor while cleaning up. Or, sprinkle baking soda generously to cover the stained area, let sit for an hour, then vacuum up. <i>Baby spit up</i> - Carry a small jar of baking soda and water in diaper bag or car glove compartment to dab on. <i>Also see Air Fresheners and Deodorizers &amp; Removal - Odors, Mildew &amp; Removal - Odors, Paint.</i>
Removal - Odors, Mildew	<b>Leather articles, Leather shoes or Clothing:</b> Clean ( <i>be sure to test a portion of the item first to make sure it is color-fast</i> ) by dipping a cloth into a solution of 1/2 isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and 1/2 water. Dry where the air is circulating, or use a fan. If mildew or smell remains, make thick suds from saddle soap or a mild dishwashing soap. Wipe with suds and then wipe with a clean, damp cloth. Let shoes dry as above. <b>To keep problem from recurring,</b> put an unwrapped cake of soap (or soap scraps wrapped in netting) in containers (works wonders in stored suitcases) stored in damp, humid, poorly lit and/or poorly ventilated areas. <b>From prolonged home absence:</b> The best solution is to have a dehumidifier added to your heating/cooling system. The next solution is to keep the air conditioner on a low setting during the time the house is closed up. Keep light bulbs burning in your closets, and the closet doors ajar. (Be sure the light bulb is not near any flammable surfaces).
Removal - Odors, Paint	Add 2 teaspoons of vanilla extract per quart of paint. Or, place a large pan of water which contains a tablespoon of ammonia in the freshly painted room. Leave overnight. Or, place a large cut onion into a big pan of cold water. Paint odors will sponge into the onion within a very short time.
Removal - Oil, Cooked-on	To remove cooked-on oily deposit from stoveburners, remove burners from stove and cover with a cloth soaked in ammonia overnight in a well-ventilated work area or enclose in a large plastic bag. The next day, scrub with a steel wool pad. This method also works for cleaning oven racks.
Removal - Oil, Cooking	A solution of vinegar and baking soda will easily remove fresh cooking oil from your stovetop.
Removal - Oil, Motor	Pour a thick layer of unused kitty litter over the puddle, wait 24 hours, and sweep up with a broom. Scrub clean with a solution of detergent and hot water. <i>Also works on transmission fluid leaks. Also see Cleaners - Concrete Driveway.</i>
Removal - Paint	<b>Glass:</b> Wash freshly dried paint off glass with a hot vinegar solution. <i>To eliminate window scraping,</i> dampen strips of newspaper or any other straight-edged paper with warm water. Spread strips around each window pane, making sure that the paper fits tightly into corners and edges. The paper will cling until you have finished with the paint job. Or, rub a bar of softened soap around the window panes. Or, swab on liquid detergent with a paint brush (a few inches from the frame). When the windows dry, paint away. Or, dip a cotton swab in petroleum jelly and run it around the edges of the glass. Paint smears will wipe off with a cloth. <i>To prevent damaging glass when removing splatters,</i> use a wooden popsicle or lollipop stick and rub at a shallow angle against specks. If there's a lot, rub it sideways. <i>Use homemade recipe under Cleaner-Window to clean glass.</i> <b>Woodwork:</b> Apply a coat of lemon oil on woodwork before painting. If paint speckles appear, they will rub off easily. <b>Other surfaces:</b> Coat door hinges, lock latches and other hardware with a coating of petroleum jelly. Mold aluminum foil around doorknobs or coat with petroleum jelly. <b>Removal from face and hands:</b> Rub petroleum jelly, cooking oil or baby oil on exposed skin. Follow up with glycerine-based soap. Before painting, give fingernails a good coating of bar soap for the fastest wash-up ever. <i>Prevent spray paint from sticking in your hair:</i> Before spray painting, slick a dab of conditioning hairdressing the size of a quarter over your hair so you can wash away the paint more easily. <b>Removal from mirror:</b> Spray mirror with homemade window cleaner (See Cleaners - Window), then while still wet, scrape paint with a razor blade. Keeping mirror wet will prevent scratching with blade.
Removal - Ring	Smear some mayonnaise, petroleum jelly or lip balm around the ring band and slide the ring off.
Removal - Rust	<b>Bolts/Nails/Nuts:</b> Apply a cloth soaked in any carbonated beverage, or a drop or two of ammonia or a little warm baby oil on rusted nails or screws. Let stand for a few minutes and then remove them. <i>Remember, left is loose and right is tight.</i> Before screwing it back in, wrap thread around it and coat with vaseline to avoid future rusting. Soak rusted tool, bolt or spigot in undiluted white vinegar overnight. <b>To prevent rust on tools:</b> Place a piece of charcoal or chalk in toolbox to attract any moisture. Or, store small tools in a bucket of sand. <b>To prevent rust on cars:</b> Wax often. The worst rust starts from the inside, so be sure to clean the dirt from the undercarriage when you wash your car, especially if road salt is used in your area. <b>Outdoor machinery rust preventative:</b> Apply a generous coat of petroleum jelly on surfaces. <i>Also see Spot &amp; Stain Removal - Rust.</i>



## ALTERNATIVE CLEANING METHODS

Cleaning Products	Solutions or Alternatives
Removal - Salt Residue	<b>Carpet:</b> Combine equal amounts of vinegar and water and scrub. <b>Shoes/Boots:</b> Use a solution of equal amounts of vinegar and water. Then, polish.
Removal - Scorch Mark	<i>On whites</i> , sponge with a piece of cotton soaked in 3% hydrogen peroxide (mild antiseptic). Blot dry. <i>For linen and cotton</i> , dampen a cloth with peroxide, lay it on the scorched area and iron with a warm iron. <i>For woolens</i> , wet the scorched spot and then rub cornstarch over it. Brush when dry.
Removal - Scratches	<b>Auto finish:</b> For all but the newest and/or most expensive cars, cover scratches by using a matching color crayon, and working it into the scratch. <b>Ebony:</b> Use black eyebrow pencil and then wipe down with furniture polish. <b>Glass:</b> Polish with a dollop of regular (non-gel) toothpaste. <b>Wood: Deep scratches</b> - Take a walnut or pecan meat, and break the meat in half. Rub the scratch with the broken side of the nut until scratch is filled in. <b>Minor scratches</b> - Cover each scratch with a generous amount of white petroleum jelly and let sit for 24 hours. Rub into wood. Remove excess and polish as usual. Or, rub with a soft cloth dipped in a solution of 1 part fresh lemon juice and 1 part vegetable oil. <b>Woodwork:</b> Mix 1 teaspoon of instant coffee with 2 teaspoons water. Apply to the scratch with a cotton ball. <b>Nicks on dark wood only:</b> Mix enough water with dried instant coffee to make a thick paste. Rub it into the nick, let it dry, rub off the excess and wax as usual. <b>Patch woodwork:</b> Mix dry instant coffee with spackling paste until you achieve the desired brown tone, fill the crack or hole and smooth with a damp cloth.
Removal - Scuff Marks	Try an ordinary pencil eraser on floor scuff marks. <i>Also see Polish - Shoes.</i>
Removal - Shoe Polish	<i>White Fabric:</i> Remove with undiluted isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. <i>Colored Fabric:</i> Remove using 1 part isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and 2 parts water.
Removal - Static Cling	To eliminate static cling, rub a dab of moisturizing hand lotion into your hands until it disappears, then rub your palms over pantyhose or slip.
Removal - Sticker Residue on Plastic	Saturate sticker with Avon's Skin So Soft Bath Oil or WD-40. Scrape off with a plastic credit card. <i>Also see Removal - Decal/Bumper sticker.</i>
Removal - Sticky Residue on Vinyl	Wipe down the vinyl with a cloth soaked in rubbing alcohol to remove any grease, food stains, dirt, etc. Then rub cornstarch into the vinyl to remove the stickiness. Polish with a soft cloth. <i>If vinyl is dried and cracked</i> , rub petroleum jelly into it, wiping it clean with a soft, dry cloth before applying the cornstarch.
Removal - Transmission Fluid Leak	<i>See Removal - Oil, Motor and Cleaners - Concrete Driveway.</i>
Removal - Wallpaper	Soak the walls with a paint roller dipped in equal parts of white vinegar and hot water. The paper should peel off in sheets after two applications. Or, wet the paper thoroughly with a sponge dipped in vinegar/hot water solution.
Scouring Powder	Baking soda is an excellent substitute.
Shaving Cream	Use a shaving brush and lather up shaving soap. Or, prepare instant dry powdered dessert topping or use smooth peanut butter or slather on a moisturizing hand lotion. <i>Also see Cleaners - Upholstery.</i>
Spot Remover - Aluminum	Mix 2 tablespoons cream of tartar and 1 quart hot water.
Spot Remover - Ballpoint Ink/Ink	<b>Fabric:</b> Try rubbing isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol or lemon juice liberally on the spot while ink is wet before laundering in cold water. Or, pour some milk on stain, rub it a little, rinse and ink will come out. Or, mix cold water, 1 tablespoon cream of tartar and 1 tablespoon lemon juice into a paste. Place a cloth or paper towel directly behind the material the spot is on. Dab with the above mixture. Or, rub with white milk of magnesia chalk after applying water to the stain. Let it dry, and then rub it off. Or, squeeze regular (non-gel) toothpaste on spot, scrub and rinse thoroughly. <b>Lacquered Furniture:</b> Make a thin paste with rottenstone and boiled linseed oil. Apply it to the stain with your finger and rub with the grain of the wood. Wax or polish. <b>Painted walls/woodwork:</b> Dab (do not rub) at the marks with a clean cloth dampened with distilled white vinegar. Blot frequently. <b>Skin:</b> Place a dab of margarine on a damp cloth and rub ball point ink from skin. <b>Vinyl:</b> Apply isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol or petroleum-based prewash spray to a clean cloth or sponge, then rub the spots. It may take several applications. Wipe well with a damp cloth to remove any residue. <i>Also see Miscellaneous Remedies - Vinyl.</i>
Spot Remover - Ceiling	To remove water spots from ceiling planks and suspended ceiling tiles, dab on some 3% hydrogen peroxide.

## ALTERNATIVE CLEANING METHODS

Cleaning Products	Solutions or Alternatives
Spot Remover - Fingerprint Marks	Rub wallpaper with a chunk of soft, stale bread in even, up-and-down strokes. <b>Greasy fingerprints on painted walls/woodwork:</b> Mix 1/2 cup of ammonia and 1/3 cup of sodium carbonate (washing soda) into a gallon of warm water. Dip a cloth into the solution and scrub very gently at the spot until it disappears.
Spot Remover - Food Debris	<b>Lacquered furniture:</b> Soak a chamois cloth in a solution of 1 tablespoon of white vinegar with 1 pint of warm water and wipe vigorously.
Spot Remover - General	Club soda, lemon juice, or salt can be used. Or, cover the spots well with French chalk (available in most drugstores). Leave it on for 24 hours, and then remove it with a soft cloth. <b>For butter, coffee, gravy, or chocolate stains:</b> Immediately sponge up or scrape off as much as possible. Dab with a cloth dampened with a solution of 1 teaspoon white vinegar and 1 quart cold water. For stains that have set, try a dab of full-strength white vinegar. Or put paper towels underneath to blot, and apply a solution of equal parts ammonia and water. (If an ammonia stain remains, blot it with a solution of table salt in water.) <i>Also see Cleaners - Upholstery.</i>
Spot Remover - Heat ring (furniture)	Apply a paste of salt and olive oil to ugly heat rings on your table. Let sit for about an hour, and then wipe off with a soft cloth. <b>Lacquered furniture:</b> Blot the heat mark with a cloth dampened with boiled linseed oil and rub dry with a clean cloth. If the heat mark still remains, rub gently with fine steel wool dipped in a paste wax. Wipe off any excess and repolish. <i>See Spot Remover - White Water Rings &amp; Stain Removal - Alcoholic Beverages.</i>
Spot Remover - Mildew	<b>Fabric:</b> Rub in some buttermilk and salt, and let item dry in the sun. Or, soak item in equal parts of vinegar and salt. Or, apply a paste of vinegar and baking soda. Rub in and wash as usual. <b>Tile grout:</b> Spread on a paste of 3 parts baking soda to 1 part water. Let set for 10 to 15 minutes. Then scrub off with a plastic scrubbing pad or old toothbrush. Or, scrub with undiluted vinegar and a plastic scrubber or old toothbrush. Or squeeze out a line of regular (non-gel) toothpaste or denture cream on the grout, let set 10 to 15 minutes, then scrub off with a plastic scrubbing pad or old toothbrush. <b>To kill and inhibit mildew:</b> Wipe the grout with isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. No need to rinse. <i>Also see Removal - Mildew.</i>
Spot Remover - Mud/Dirt	<b>Carpet/Floors:</b> Sprinkle salt on damp mud spots. Give the salt at least 15 minutes to soak up the mud. Or, sprinkle cornstarch until the mud is completely covered. Let stand for 20 minutes. Then vacuum up. <b>Fabric:</b> Apply a paste of vinegar and baking soda. Rub in and wash as usual.
Spot Remover - Nail Polish	<b>Lacquered furniture:</b> If spilled polish is still wet, blot clean and wipe any remaining traces. Soak stain for no longer than 5 minutes with boiled linseed oil, then scrape off the residue with a plastic credit card or nonstick spatula. Repeat the process as needed. <b>Floors:</b> Allow the spilled polish to almost dry, then peel it off of waxed floors or tile. <b>Other surfaces:</b> Peanut butter will soften, then scrape off with a plastic credit card or blunt knife.
Spot Remover - Paint (Finger/Poster)	<b>On painted walls/woodwork:</b> Dab at the area with a clean, damp cloth, trying to remove as much surface accumulation as possible. Then try rubbing gently with baking soda on a damp cloth. (Note: Paint marks on porous wallpaper or unfinished wood are virtually impossible to remove.) <i>Prevention:</i> Add 1/4 teaspoon of liquid dishwashing detergent to the paint before child uses it. Also, cut an opening in the center of a sponge and insert the container to prevent tip overs and absorb any overflow. <b>Rugs/Carpet:</b> Immediately blot with a dry towel. Let the paint dry; then carefully brush off all surface accumulation with a stiff brush. Vacuum away residue. Then dab at any remaining stain with a clean cloth wrung out in a mixture of 1 teaspoon of liquid dishwashing detergent to 1 cup of warm water. Blot with a dry towel after each dab. <b>Washable fabrics:</b> Let the paint dry; then brush off surface accumulation with a stiff brush. Wash the fabric as usual, but don't machine dry as it may set any remaining stain. <b>Nonwashables:</b> Blot up the paint; then let it dry. Brush the dried paint out of fabric with an old toothbrush, and if stain remains, send item to dry cleaner's with explanation of the source of stain. <i>Also see Stain Removal - Paint.</i>
Spot Remover - Permanent Marker	<b>Colored marker scribbles:</b> Your best bet is to call or write to the manufacturer of the marker, indicating the type of marker and surface scribbled on. As a desperate measure, go over the marks with a clean cloth dipped in liquid detergent and lukewarm water. Then try dabbing the stain with isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol (but be extremely careful with this as it could damage the surface). <b>Hard surfaces and fabrics:</b> On a damp toothbrush, put regular (non-gel) toothpaste, work into the stain and wipe and rinse off. If using on fabric, rinse it off immediately so the fabric won't fade. Or, wipe with a cloth dipped in isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. <b>Piano keys:</b> Use isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol.
Spot Remover - Perspiration	Apply a thick paste of baking soda and water to stains. Rub paste into the stain, let sit for an hour, and launder as usual. Or, apply 1 part white vinegar to 4 parts water, then rinse. <i>Also see Stain Removal - Deodorant</i>

## ALTERNATIVE CLEANING METHODS

Cleaning Products	Solutions or Alternatives
Spot Remover - Rust	<b>Car bumper:</b> Briskly scrub the rust spots on your bumpers with a piece of crumpled aluminum foil dipped in carbonated cola drink or use fine steel wool. Or, use a soap-filled steel wool pad. <i>Prevent steel wool from rusting:</i> wrap the pad in aluminum foil and store in the freezer. <b>Clothing:</b> Saturate rust spot with lemon juice and salt, and let item dry in the sun. Launder as usual. Or, use 1 cup lemon juice in the washer for rust and mineral discoloration removal on cotton t-shirts and briefs. <i>For white washables,</i> cover the stains with cream of tartar, then gather up the ends of the article so that the powder stays on the spot. Dip the entire spot into hot water for about 5 minutes. Launder as usual. <i>Also see Removal/Stain Removal - Rust.</i>
Spot Removal - Soot	<b>Fireplace:</b> <i>Brick tiling</i> - Dip a vegetable brush in white vinegar and scrub quickly. Immediately sponge to absorb the moisture. <i>Porous, rock front/smooth stone/brick</i> - Rub with an artgum eraser. <i>For big jobs</i> - Add 4 ounces of Fels Naptha soap to 1 quart of hot water in saucepan. Heat until soap dissolves. Cool, then stir in 1/2 pound of powdered pumice and 1/2 cup of household ammonia. Mix thoroughly. Remove as much of the smoky deposit as you can before applying a coat of the soap mixture with a paint brush. Allow it to remain on for 30 minutes. Scrub with a scrub brush and warm water. Sponge with plenty of water to rinse. <b>Light colored carpet:</b> Try an artgum eraser. Or, sprinkle soiled areas with salt. Wait 1/2 hour and then vacuum. <b>Stove:</b> Sprinkle about 1 teaspoon of baking soda and rub with a wet cloth.
Spot Remover - Suede	To cover spots on black suede, sponge on a little cold, black coffee. For white suede, rub with chalk.
Spot Remover - Syrup	Use shaving cream to remove from carpet. <i>Also see Cleaners - Upholstery for homemade shaving cream recipe.</i>
Spot Remover - Tar	<b>Automobile:</b> Soak tar spots with raw linseed oil. Allow to stand until soft. Then, wipe with a soft cloth which has been dampened with the oil. <b>Bare feet:</b> Squeeze on regular (non-gel) toothpaste and rub. <b>Other surfaces:</b> Spread 1 teaspoon of mayonnaise on tar, rub, and wipe off.
Spot Remover - Upholstery	Dab spot from the edge into the center using club soda. To erase pencil marks or fingerprints, rub either a soft white rubber eraser or the crumbly, gum kind (not pink) found at an art-supply store. <i>Also see Cleaners - Upholstery.</i>
Spot Remover - White Water Rings	<b>To remove water or alcohol white rings on wood furniture:</b> First see if you can remove it simply by wiping the mark with a squirt of ammonia on a dampened cloth. Then, if that doesn't work, moisten a cloth with a mixture of linseed oil (either kind) with either powdered pumice or powdered rottenstone, and rub along the grain of the wood. Or, dab some regular (non-gel) toothpaste onto a damp cloth and buff with the grain of the wood. For stubborn spots, combine the toothpaste with an equal amount of baking soda. Or, dip a cork or cloth into vegetable oil, butter or mayonnaise, and then into either table salt, cigarette ashes or powdered pumice. Rub with the grain until the discoloration is gone. Buff gently with soft, slightly damp cloth. Or, rub the spot with petroleum jelly and let it stand 24 hours. Then rub into the wood. Wipe off the excess, and polish as usual. Unfortunately, these techniques will not work if the stain has gone all the way through the finish to the wood. <b>Lacquered furniture:</b> Wipe up the water spot immediately, and rub a thin paste of boiled linseed oil and rottenstone over the spill. If this does not completely remove it, place a clean, thick blotter over the spot and press with a warm (not hot) iron; repeat this process until the ring disappears.
Stain Removal - Alcoholic Beverages	<b>Fabric:</b> Soak fresh stains in cold water and a few tablespoons of glycerine. Rinse with white vinegar and water. These stains turn brown with age, so treat immediately. <b>Wood furniture:</b> Blot spill immediately, then put a few drops of ammonia on a damp cloth and wipe the area. If spot still remains, make a light paste of boiled linseed oil and rottenstone, and rub into the stain with your finger, then wax or polish. <i>Also see Spot Remover - White Water Rings.</i>
Stain Removal - Blood	<b>Fabric:</b> Saturate either fresh or dried blood with concentrated Murphy's Oil Soap, hand scrub the spot briskly, set the washing machine on cold. Add detergent and wash as usual. Or, soak garment in cold water with 2 tablespoons table salt. Or, make a paste of meat tenderizer mixed with a few drops of water. Work into the stain, and then launder as usual. <i>Also works on milk and egg stains.</i> Or, immediately cover the spot with a paste of cornstarch and cold water. Rub gently, place the object in the sun until dry to draw the blood into the cornstarch, then brush off. Repeat if necessary. Or, rub regular (non-gel) toothpaste onto stain with a toothbrush or light scrubber. Wipe off with a damp sponge. Also works great on mattresses. <b>On mattresses and pillows:</b> Apply a thick lump of paste made from cornstarch and cold water over the stain. When the starch is totally dry, run a knife under the hardened mass, which will contain the blood. Vacuum away any residue, and finish by wiping the area with a cloth wrung out in cold water. Repeat if necessary. <b>Upholstery:</b> Cover the spot immediately with a paste of cornstarch and cold water. Rub lightly and place object in the sun to dry. The sun will draw the blood out into the cornstarch. Brush off. If stain is not completely gone, try, try again.

## ALTERNATIVE CLEANING METHODS

Cleaning Products	Solutions or Alternatives
Stain Removal - Carpet	Dab with club soda. Or, in a spray bottle, combine 2 cups water, 1/2 cup isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol, 2 tablespoons plain ammonia and 2 tablespoons white vinegar. Shake well before using. <i>(This cleaner does not work on oil-based stains, and remember, always spot test a small area of your rug first.)</i> Or, in a bottle, mix a quart of water, 1/2 teaspoon of liquid dishwashing or laundry detergent, and 1 tablespoon white vinegar. Blot the spot with this mixture and then rinse well with water. If the carpet is nylon, polyester, or cotton, you can alternatively blot with a solution of an enzyme laundry booster in water. Follow this with the homemade vinegar and detergent in water solution. Whichever technique is used, blotting up the liquids and thoroughly drying the area afterward is very important. NOTE: Shaving cream is a useful carpet cleaner for new stains and ordinary dirt. Make your own by mixing 1/2 cup mild detergent with 2 cups boiling water. Cool until it forms into jelly, then whip with a hand beater for a good stiff foam.
Stain Removal - Ceramic	<b>For light tub or sink stains:</b> Rub with a cut lemon. <b>For dark stains</b> , and especially rust, rub with a paste of borax and lemon juice. <b>For extremely stained bathtub:</b> Use a mixture of peroxide and cream of tartar. Make a paste and scrub vigorously with a small brush. Rinse thoroughly. If stains persist, spread the above mixture over stains and apply a drop or two of household ammonia. Allow to set for two hours before scrubbing. <i>Also see Stain Removal - Porcelain.</i>
Stain Removal - Clothing (Yellowing)	<b>To prevent yellowing or graying of summer "whites" or "brights":</b> Before winter storage, wash summer clothes in a regular wash cycle. Then leave in washer and put through another cycle with nothing more than a cup of water conditioning powder. If your water is very hard, increase this amount by an extra 1/4-cup. Do not add softener to the rinse cycle. Dinginess is caused by soap or detergent left in the fabric. Linen or cotton fabric can be whitened by boiling it in a mixture of 1 part cream of tartar to 3 parts water. <i>If fabric cannot be whitened with any of these methods, dye them by soaking the item in hot, strong brewed regular tea until it is a shade darker than you desire. Then rinse in cold water and let dry. Also see Removal - Detergent Residue or Fabric Dye.</i>
Stain Removal - Coffee	<b>Carpet:</b> Mix 1 teaspoon liquid dish detergent into 1 cup of lukewarm water. Using a sponge or old, clean kitchen towel, dab the stain with the mixture. Next, using the same sponge or towel, dab stain with a mixture of 1/3 cup white household vinegar and 2/3 cup water. Blot up any excess liquid. Now apply enzyme detergent following package directions; blot again. Finish by rinsing area with water and blotting until dry. <b>Coffee cups:</b> Rub with moistened salt. <b>Coffee pot:</b> Heat white vinegar in the container and allow to soak for several hours. <b>Coffee Thermos:</b> Fill thermos with hot water, put a few tablespoons of baking soda or drop in a denture-cleaning tablet, and let soak overnight. Do this every so often to prevent coffee buildup.
Stain Removal - Condiments	<b>Catsup:</b> First, sponge stain with cold water. Next, rub in a little glycerine. Leave a few hours. Sponge next with a sponge dipped in white vinegar. After 2 minutes, launder as usual. <b>Mustard:</b> Dip a damp cloth in baking soda and rub the stain.
Stain Removal - Deodorant	<i>See Spot Remover - Perspiration.</i> <b>Prevention:</b> After applying deodorant, dust under the arms with regular cornstarch.
Stain Removal - Egg/Milk	<i>See Stain Removal - Blood.</i>
Stain Removal - Fiberglass	Mix together a baking soda paste and rub into stain with a soft cloth.
Stain Removal - Fruit	Rub salt on fruit stains while still wet, then launder as usual. Or, make a paste of cornstarch and water, apply to the stain and let sit overnight, then wash. Unlike salt, this works even after the fruit stain has dried. Or, stretch the stained area over a bowl and slowly pour boiling water, from a height of several feet, through the stain.
Stain Removal - Fruit Juice/Wine	Pour salt on the spot at once to absorb the stain. Or, blot up as much as you can, then pour milk on stain. Let sit for a while, then clean up milk with water. Be sure to get all milk out of carpet so it doesn't sour and smell. <b>Glass carafe residue:</b> Cover the bottom with several inches of white vinegar. Add a bunch of tea leaves or scouring powder, fill with hot water and shake. Let stand for 24 hours. Then shake again, rinse and wash well with hot, sudsy water. Rinse again. Or, if vinegar solution fails, put 1 teaspoon of ammonia into the carafe, filling with hot water and let sit for 24 hours. If the stains were cloudiness that comes from minerals in the water, the ammonia will yield good results. <b>Hands:</b> Rinse hands with lemon juice.
Stain Removal - General	Rub Fels Naptha laundry bar soap into stains on clothing. Launder as usual.
Stain Removal - Grass	When a garment gets a grass stain, don't get the stain wet. Put some glycerin on the stain. Rub and scratch it into the material thoroughly. Let stand for a hour, then put garment into regular wash. Or, douse the stains with isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol, then wash in plain water.

## ALTERNATIVE CLEANING METHODS

Cleaning Products	Solutions or Alternatives
Stain Removal - Grease Spots	<b>Black grease on clothing from engines or bicycle chains:</b> Rub peanut butter into stain thoroughly, scrape off the excess and launder as usual. Treat stains in <b>polyester blends</b> by dabbing on dry cream of tartar, leaving it for a while and then brushing it off. It even works on rugs and upholstered furniture. Or, sprinkle baking soda, cornmeal or cornstarch on an oil/grease stain. After the cornstarch has soaked up the stain, brush off and launder as usual. <b>On shoe leather:</b> Purchase Fuller's Earth from a pharmacy, and make a paste of some of the powder with water. Spread paste on the stain. Leave it until it's totally dry. Brush off. Repeat, if needed. <b>On suede:</b> Sponge with a cloth dipped in vinegar or club soda. Restore nap of suede by brushing with a suede brush. <b>On upholstery:</b> Pour salt on grease spill immediately. The salt will absorb the grease and prevent staining. Or, sprinkle talcum, cornstarch, or Fuller's Earth on a fresh stain. Rub in well and let stand until the stain is absorbed. Brush off and wipe with a damp cloth. <b>On wallpaper:</b> Rub talcum powder onto the paper with a powder puff. Repeat under the spot is gone. <i>Also see Removal - Grease &amp; Stain Removal - Oil.</i>
Stain Removal - Lipstick	Apply petroleum jelly on linen napkins before washing.
Stain Removal - Makeup Smudge	Smudges can be removed from dark clothing by blotting the area with a slice of white bread. Repeat as necessary.
Stain Removal - Marble	Sprinkle salt on a fresh cut lemon. Rub very lightly over stain. Do not rub hard or you will ruin the polished surface. Wash off with soap and water. Or, scour with a water and baking soda paste. Let stand for a few minutes before rinsing with warm water.
Stain Removal - Oil	<b>Concrete:</b> Make a paste of hot water and dishwasher detergent. Scrub it into the spot and let sit overnight. Add additional water and scrub, then rinse well. Or, spread several thicknesses of newspaper over the area where quite a bit of oil has spilled. Saturate the newspaper with water and press firmly against the floor. Allow to dry thoroughly, remove and the oil spots will be gone. Or, sprinkle the area with sand or kitty litter. You can sweep it up after it is absorbed. <i>Also see Removal - Oil, Motor &amp; Cleaners - Concrete Driveway.</i> <b>Fabric:</b> Rub white chalk into stain before laundering. <i>See Stain Removal - Oil.</i> <b>Hair oil spots:</b> Use chalk of milk of magnesia to rub on the spot -- leave it on for 24 hours before dusting it off.
Stain Removal - Paint	Soak item in hot vinegar. <i>Also see Spot Remover - Paint.</i>
Stain Removal - Perfume	<b>Furniture:</b> Blot the spill immediately, then put a few drops of ammonia on a damp cloth and wipe the area. If the spot still remains, make a light paste of boiled linseed oil and rottenstone, and rub it into the stain with your finger, then wax or polish.
Stain Removal - Porcelain	Sprinkle baking soda onto stain and rub with a wet cloth, then rinse. <i>See Stain Removal - Ceramic (dark stains).</i>
Stain Removal - Rust	Apply lemon juice and salt, then place in the sun. Or, spread a paste of 3% hydrogen peroxide and cream of tartar over the rusted area, and add a few drops of ammonia. Let this mixture stand for 2 or 3 hours, then rinse. <i>For white washables,</i> cover stain with cream of tartar, then gather up the ends of the article so that the powder stays on the spot. Dip the entire spot into hot water for about 5 minutes, then launder. <i>See Spot Remover - Rust.</i>
Stain Removal - Tree Sap	Wash off with regular liquid detergent and water. If that doesn't work, use a good car wax, rubbing it on in a circular motion with a soft cloth. Sap contains an acid that eats away at paint so it should be removed as quickly as possible. If the sap cannot be removed, go to a car refinishing expert to repair the finish.
Stain Removal - Urine	<b>On mattresses, rugs and carpeting:</b> Immediately blot up as much urine as possible before it dries. Then dab at the stain with a solution of distilled white vinegar and water. Blot after each dab and let it dry (a hair dryer will speed things up). Then apply a mixture of liquid detergent and cool water, blotting frequently. Finally, dab with clear water and blot thoroughly. <b>Doggy spots:</b> Blot up as much moisture as possible. Rub with a solution of vinegar or lemon juice and warm sudsy water. Blot and blot some more. Then pour straight club soda over the spot. Blot again. Place a dry towel over the stain and put a heavy book on top of it. If the towel becomes soggy, immediately replace with a clean, dry one. <b>Cat spots:</b> Follow doggy procedure above, but once the spot has dried, rub with a cloth dampened in ammonia. This will take the offensive odor away and will also prevent the cat from ever doing it again in the same spot.
Starch	Mix 1 tablespoon cornstarch and 1 pint cold water. Stir to dissolve the cornstarch completely. Fill a spray bottle and use as you would any starch. Be sure to shake vigorously before each use.
Windshield Washer Solvent	This formula is guaranteed not to freeze down to 35 degrees below zero. Combine 1 quart isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol, 1 cup water and 2 tablespoons liquid detergent.

## GARDEN & INSECT REMEDIES

### Garden & Insect Remedies

### Solutions or Alternatives

Rather than using insecticides and pesticides that can harm you or the environment, the following organic and homemade recipes/remedies can be made using natural, safe products you may already have in your home.

Cleaner - Houseplant Leaves	Mix 1-1/3 cup nonfat dry milk powder with 7-3/4 cups water. Using a soft cloth, wipe the leaves with this solution.
Garden Insect Remedies	<b>Cucumber Beetles or Squash Bugs:</b> Sprinkle the plant with garlic powder and they will literally drop and run.
Garden Insect Remedies - Slugs/Snails	Sprinkle completely dried, crushed eggshells or oyster shells around any plants or areas infested with these invaders. Or, mix 1 can of beer, 1 tablespoon sugar and 1 teaspoon of baker's yeast together; let sit for a few days, and then pour the brew into shallow pie tins. Set the tins below ground level in various areas of your garden so slugs drink themselves to death. Or, cut fresh grapefruit in half and place pulp side down on dirt. Remove grapefruits with slugs/snails and dispose in garbage in the morning. Or, slugs will not cross a chalk line.
Garden Insect Spray	In a blender, food processor or food grinder, grind together 4 fresh hot chili peppers, 4 onions and 2 whole garlic bulbs. Place the ground vegetables in a deep bowl or pot and add enough water to cover the vegetables by approximately 1-inch. Allow to stand for 24 hours. Strain the liquid through cheesecloth, saving the liquid. Add enough water to the strained liquid to make 1 gallon. Use this as a general purpose insect spray over the entire garden. Will also discourage four-footed nibblers as well as bugs. Soapsuds are also a fantastic insecticide. Spray them on liberally.
Garden Organic Insecticides	<p><b>Herbs are nature's insecticides. Include a variety of them in your garden.</b></p> <p>Basil near tomatoes repels worms and flies.</p> <p>Mint, sage, dill and thyme protect cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and Brussels sprouts from the cabbage moth.</p> <p>Onions and garlic protect your plants from Japanese beetles, carrot flies and aphids on lettuce and beans. Onions should be planted near carrots and beets.</p> <p>Plant horseradish near potatoes to repel potato beetles.</p> <p>Anise and coriander discourage aphids.</p> <p>Radishes planted near cabbage repels maggots.</p> <p><b>Do not plant garlic near peas, nor cabbage near strawberries.</b></p>
Germination	To accelerate the germination of grass seeds, mix 2 tablespoons of cold, strong brewed tea into each pound of seed, cover, and set in the refrigerator for 5 days. Before sowing, spread the seed to dry for a day or two on newspapers on the garage or basement floor.
Houseplant Insect Remedies	<b>Aphids &amp; Spiders:</b> Wash total plant off with mild detergent and water. <b>Black flies:</b> Combine 2 tablespoons of plain ammonia and 1 quart of water. Water soil with solution. <b>White flies:</b> Mix 2 tablespoons of dishwashing liquid in 1 gallon of water and spray on leaves. <b>Scales:</b> For instant removal of slugs, place plant in pot of water. <b>Pests of all kinds:</b> Plant a garlic clove along with your plant. As it grows, simply keep cutting it down so it will not disturb the appearance of the plant. Garlic will not harm the plant, but the bugs hate it.
Insect Bite Treatment	<b>Bee Stings:</b> To neutralize the poison, wrap an ice cube in a washcloth, wet it, then put ammonia on it and hold it to the stings. Or, apply a poultice of baking soda and water. Or, apply a meat tenderizer and water paste. Or, try applying a fresh cut slice of raw onion to the sting to help draw out the poison. Hold the onion in place with tape. <b>Insect Bites:</b> Apply regular ammonia or undiluted white vinegar or saliva or a poultice of either cornstarch or baking soda, mixed with vinegar, fresh lemon juice or witch hazel. Or, apply a paste made of meat tenderizer and water. <i>To relieve mosquito itch, try applying soap on the area -- instant relief!</i> Or, mix 10 ounces dry instant milk and 25 ounces water in a quart container. Fill up the container by adding ice cubes and 2 tablespoons salt. Apply to infected area with a cloth for 20 minutes, 3 or 4 times daily. <i>Also use for poison ivy and sunburn. Also see Repellent - Mosquito.</i> <b>Fire Ants:</b> As soon as possible, put ammonia on bite.

## GARDEN & INSECT REMEDIES

Garden & Insect Remedies	Solutions or Alternatives
Plant Fertilizer - Garden	Mix compost and/or vermi-compost into growing soil. To make great compost material, add dried, crushed eggshells to your compost pile. Work dried coffee grounds into soil to add acid to the soil. Toss dried, crushed up eggshells on your garden for plant growth, as well as sweetening sour or acidic soil. Instead of adding lime to raise the pH level, add dried, crushed eggshells. <i>To grow great peppers and tomatoes</i> , soak all of your crushed eggshells in water for 24 hours, and then water your plants with it. Empty the contents of used tea bags on the soil around your plants and cover with mulch. As you water your garden, the tea leaves will decompose and nourish your plant's roots. <b>Azaleas:</b> Occasionally water plants with a mixture of 2 tablespoons white vinegar to 1 quart water. Azaleas love acidic soil. <b>Tomatoes:</b> Mix fireplace ashes into the surrounding soil. Or, to ward off many common tomato diseases like early blight, use this mix on your newly transplanted tomato seedlings: 1/2 cup of powdered nonfat milk, 1/2 cup of Epsom salts and 3 cups of compost. Sprinkle a handful of the mix into the planting hole, and then sprinkle a little of the dry milk on top of the soil after planting. Repeat every few weeks throughout the growing season. <i>Tomato seedlings protection:</i> Remove the top and bottom lids from coffee cans and set a can over each baby plant. (Step firmly on the can to set it into the ground.) Remove cans when plants are a few weeks old. <i>Tie-up hint:</i> To avoid cutting into your prize winning tomato plants, tie the stalks with pantyhose that have been cut lengthwise.
Plant Fertilizer - Houseplant	To supercharge your soil, dry eggshells in the microwave or oven, crush them, and add to any planter mix. Empty the contents of used tea bags on the soil around your plants. As you water, the tea leaves will decompose and nourish your plant's roots. Invigorate ferns and other houseplants by watering once a week with a weak, tepid brewed tea.
Removal - Mildew	Dust some ground cinnamon around each plant and mold and mildew won't grow in the dirt.
Removal - Poison Ivy	Spray the area with a solution of 2 gallons soapy water and 3 pounds of salt. Several treatments will kill it. <i>To relieve poison ivy itch</i> , rub the affected area with the white of a raw egg. Or, applying lemon juice over the affected areas should soothe itching and alleviate the rash. Or, mix 10 ounces dry instant powdered milk and 25 ounces water in a quart container. Fill up the container by adding ice cubes and 2 tablespoons salt. Apply to infected area with a cloth for 20 minutes, 3 or 4 times daily. <i>Also use for mosquito itch and sunburn.</i>
Removal - Termites	Ask exterminator to use organophosphates, such as chlorpyrifos (Dursban T.C. by Dow Chemical).
Removal - Unwanted Grass/Weeds	Salted boiling water will immediately kill grass or weeds growing between sections of cement walk. To keep grass from growing between bricks in a walk, sprinkle the spaces with salt or pour white vinegar in crevices and between bricks.
Removal - Wasps	To catch wasps that get inside your house, spray them a few times with water in a hand-held sprayer. The weight of the water on their wings prevents them from flying (and escaping).
Repellent - Ant	Place small sponges soaked in sugar sweetened water wherever ants have been seen. Collect the sponges periodically and plunge into hot water. Hanging sprigs of dried pennyroyal, tansy or rue in kitchen cabinets will keep ants away. Or, sprinkle grits on ant mounds. Because they can't digest grits, they will die. Rid <b>red ants</b> from your pantry by putting a small quantity of green sage on the cupboard shelves. <i>To prevent ants from crossing the line</i> , sprinkle dried coffee grounds or ground cinnamon outside doors and cracks. Or, use a spray bottle filled with a solution of equal parts vinegar and water around door jambs, window sills, water pipes and foundation cracks. Or, fill cracks and make a line with flour where ants enter. Or, draw a line of chalk around windows/doors outside your home and around waterpipes inside your home. Ant or red fire ant hills outside the home can be destroyed by pouring a kettle of boiling water down each opening. <b>Red fire ants:</b> Put a line of cornmeal near or around wherever they are. They eat cornmeal, but can't digest it.
Repellent - Cockroaches	Mix equal parts of cornstarch and plaster of paris. Sprinkle the mixture in cracks and crevices. Once the mixture is digested, they will "petrify".
Repellent - Flies	To prevent flies from swarming around garbage pails, hose them down and allow to dry in the sun. Then, sprinkle a little dry soap into them. If stray dogs or other four-legged varmints like to attack the garbage, sprinkle full strength ammonia over the garbage bags before placing them in the pail.
Repellent - Ground Moles	Put Juicyfruit gum in mole holes. Moles love it, but can't digest it and will perish.
Repellent - Mice	Sprinkle ground cayenne pepper around possible entry and exit points. Or, clean out all holes in wood or drywall, then close them off by packing them with steel wool or fine copper mesh, and finally seal with wood, plaster, aluminum siding, etc. Or, get a cat -- they really do work!

## GARDEN & INSECT/HOBBY WORKSHOP/PET CARE

Garden & Insect Remedies	Solutions or Alternatives
Repellent - Mosquito	Take large doses of Vitamin E or apply vanilla scented lotion on your skin. <i>For natural control of mosquitoes</i> , spray the infested area 3 times a week in the early morning or late evening with 1 cup of lemon-scented ammonia and 1 cup of plant shampoo or lemon-scented dishwashing soap, filling the balance of a 20 gallon hose-end sprayer with warm water. Thoroughly soak any places where mosquitoes tend to gather. Remember: empty containers standing with rain-water, keep birdbath water fresh and check for stopped-up roof gutters. Keep weeds and grass cut, especially in shaded areas. <i>See Insect Bite Treatment.</i>
Repellent - Silverfish	Silverfish thrive in a moist place and love starch found in paste and glue in bookbindings. Remove dampness by drying out basement or attic using a dehumidifier. <i>To discourage</i> : put one stick of Doublemint chewing gum, still in its wrapper, in drawers, on shelves and in closets. Replace every six months or so. Or, use bay leaves. Also, move books out of damp storage place and air them in the sun and then repack in cartons laced with either bay leaves or sticks of unwrapped Doublemint gum.
Tonics - Indoor Container	In a hand-held mist sprayer, mix 1 tablespoon each of liquid dish soap and antiseptic mouthwash, 1 teaspoon each of instant tea granules and ammonia. Spray on houseplants, wipe off excess with a clean, dry cloth.
Tonics - Vegetable Garden	<b>Antibiotic for sickly plants:</b> Mince several large garlic cloves and soak them in mineral oil overnight. The next day, strain the mixture, and then mix 2 teaspoons of the oil and 2 teaspoons of liquid dish soap in 1 pint of warm water. Put this in your 20-gallon hose-end sprayer, and fill the balance of the jar with warm water. Spray every 2 weeks in the evening. This is also a great insect repellent. <b>Bell Pepper Booster:</b> To give your peppers a big boost, dissolve 3 tablespoons of epsom salts in 1 gallon of water, and give each plant 1 pint of this mixture just as the blooms appear. <b>General:</b> In clean 1-gallon milk jug, mix 2 tablespoons whiskey, 1 tablespoon all-purpose plant food, 1/2 teaspoon each of unflavored gelatin and liquid dish soap, and 1/4 teaspoon of instant tea granules, and fill up with water. Add 1/2 cup of this mix to every gallon of water you use to water your plants. <b>Veggie Starter:</b> When planting your vegetable seedlings, work in a mix of 1/2 cup epsom salts, 1/4 cup coffee grinds (rinsed), and 4 eggshells (dried and crushed to powder) per peck of soil. <b>Veggie Vitalizer:</b> Mix 1/4 cup of pepper/onion/mint juice (To make this juice, finely mince 1 onion, 1 green pepper, and 2 tablespoons of mint leaves. Add to 1 quart of hot water and blend in a blender. Strain and use the remaining liquid.), 3 tablespoons of Fish Fertilizer+, 1/2 can of beer and 2 tablespoons of liquid dish soap in your 20-gallon hose-end sprayer, apply it liberally to your vegetable garden every 3 weeks throughout the growing season.
Hobby Workshop	Solutions or Alternatives
Paint - Oil Based	Use water-based paint whenever possible. Seal all paint cans with a tight fitting lid.
Paint - Spray	Use nonaerosol paints.
Wood preservative	This is a low toxicity solution. While vigorously stirring a quantity of solvent (turpentine, mineral spirits or paint thinner), slowly pour in one ounce of paraffin that has been melted in a double boiler. Add 1-1/2 cups of boiled linseed oil (or 3 cups of exterior or grade varnish) and more solvent to make one gallon. Blend it well.
Pet Care	Solutions or Alternatives
Bathing Tips	Instead of a regular bath, rub baking soda into coat thoroughly and then brush off. It deodorizes as well as it cleans. <b>To cut soap film and wash away strong soap odors</b> , add vinegar or lemon juice to the rinse water. <b>Fur tangles:</b> Use a creme rinse when fur is still wet. <b>Pet shedding:</b> Place a tea strainer in the rub drain to keep pipes from clogging up.
Cat/Puppy Behavior	<b>Chewing furniture:</b> Put a little oil of cloves on the wood with a piece of cotton. The smell and bitter taste will keep him away. <b>Prevent rug and shoe damage:</b> Provide a thoroughly washed out plastic bleach bottle to chew on. <b>Whining:</b> Make him feel at home so he doesn't miss his mother by putting a warm hot water bottle, wrapped in a towel, and a ticking clock in his bed. <b>To keep kitty off your furniture</b> , stuff a few mothballs in the cushion of a chair or sofa. Also, cats hate plastic coverings! Cover your chair until your cat realizes the chair is a no-no.
Fleas on Cats and Dogs	Chemicals can be avoided by bathing cats and dogs every 2 to 4 weeks with pet shampoos containing repellent herbs such as rosemary, rue, eucalyptus and citronella. Also, place some fresh pine needles in his doghouse or underneath his bed pan. Or, salt the crevices of his dog house and wash him periodically with salt water.
Removal - Burrs	Work some cooking oil into the tangle or crush the burrs with pliers. Crushed burrs lose their holding power and can then be combed out.
Removal - Odor, Skunk	In a well ventilated area, wash the pet down with tomato juice before washing thoroughly with shampoo and water. Rinse with 1 gallon of water to which a few tablespoons of ammonia have been added. Rinse the pet thoroughly with clear water. Or, wash thoroughly with a 50/50 water and vinegar solution thoroughly, rinse with clear water, followed by another good dousing of a weaker vinegar and water solution.
Removal - Odor/Stains, Urine	<i>See Removal - Odors and Stain Removal - Urine under Cleaning Products Section.</i>





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Daily Herald Columnists:

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