

CLEAN BOATER TIP SHEET

NON-TOXIC CLEANING ALTERNATIVES

While baking soda, vinegar, lemon juice, and vegetable oils are far less harmful than bleaches, scouring powers, or detergents, they may still be harmful to marine life. Use cleaning products sparingly and minimize the amount discharged into

the water. Never dispose of any cleaning products down the thru-hull drain; dispose of them on shore. The following list provides non-toxic alternatives to typical cleaning products for your boat and home:

Products	Alternative
Chlorine Bleach	Borax or baking soda and water.
Air Freshener	Leave out an open box of baking soda.
Disinfectants	One half-cup of borax in one gallon of water.
Scouring Powders	Baking soda. Or rub the area with one-half lemon dipped in borax, then rinse.
General Cleaner	Baking soda and vinegar. Or lemon juice combined with Borax paste.
Floor Cleaner	One cup vinegar + 2 gallons of water.
Window Cleaner	One cup of vinegar + 1 quart of warm water. Rinse and squeegee. Or rub glass with newspaper.
Toilet Bowl Cleaner	Use toilet brush and baking soda.
Aluminum Cleaner	2 tablespoons of cream of tartar + 1 quart of hot water.
Brass Cleaner	Worcestershire sauce. Or a paste made of equal amounts of salt, vinegar, and water.
Copper Cleaner	Lemon juice and water. Or a paste made of lemon juice, salt, and flour.
Chrome Cleaner/Polish	Apple cider vinegar to clean; baby oil to polish.
Stainless Steel Cleaner	Baking soda or mineral oil for polishing; vinegar to remove spots.
Fiberglass Stain Remover	Baking soda paste.
Mildew Remover	Paste made of equal amounts of lemon juice and salt, or white vinegar and salt.
Drain Opener	Dissemble or use plumber's snake. Or flush with several quarts of boiling water + one-quarter cup baking soda + one-quarter cup vinegar.
Wood polish	Olive or almond oil. (Interior walls only.)
Hand cleaner	Baby oil or margarine.
Head & Shower	Baking soda; brush thoroughly.
Rug/Upholstery Cleaner	Dry corn starch sprinkled on; vacuum.

Adapted from: Buller (1995) and MA Department of Environmental Management, Environmental Hazards Management Institute.