

General Tips

- **Ammonia** - cuts grease, strips the wax off floors, and cleans windows
- **Baking soda** - cleans, deodorizes, scours, polishes, and removes stains
- **Borax** - alternative for bleach, deodorizes, prevents mold, removes stains and boosts the cleaning power of soap
- **Cornstarch** - cleans and deodorizes carpets and rugs
- **Ketchup** - cleans copper
- **Lemon juice** - cuts grease and stains on aluminum and porcelain, whitens
- **Salt** - makes an abrasive, but gentle, scouring powder
- **Vegetable oil** – polishes furniture
- **Washing soda** - cuts grease and disinfects
- **White vinegar** - cleans windows, shines metal surfaces, removes mildew, stains, grease and wax buildup

Contact Information

City Engineering/Stormwater Drainage
(719) 385-5980

www.springsgov.com/cityengineering

Colorado Water Protection Project

(303) 861-5195

(888) 861-9969

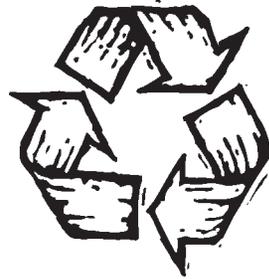
www.ourwater.org

El Paso County

Solid Waste Management

(719) 520-7878

www.elpasoco.com



Substitutes for Household Chemicals

Vol. I: All Purpose Cleaners
and General Tips



Did you know stormwater runoff in El Paso County is not treated, but goes directly into our streams and creeks? That is why it is important to insure that pollutants such as pet waste, soaps and dirt from car washing, automotive fluids, trash, garbage and chemicals do not end up in the storm drains.

Water washing over the land can pick up an array of contaminants that can run off into our streams and creeks either directly or through our storm sewer systems. The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that pollution from this runoff is the largest cause of water quality problems in the U.S.

Everyday personal actions you take can have a significant impact on the water quality of our local streams and creeks. Remember that while the individual household might contribute only minor amounts of pollution, the combined effect of a neighborhood or a city is serious.

Household Chemicals

As a homeowner you can help, simply by substituting environmentally friendly agents for the harsh chemicals normally purchased for use around the house. Being a responsible home owner means not only keeping the areas you live in clean and safe but also means reducing contaminants in our local waterways.

All Purpose Cleaner

- Mix 1 gallon of hot water with 1/4 cup of white vinegar. This will replace ammonia or chlorine. It is safe for all surfaces and can be rinsed with water.
- Instead of a scouring pad, which contains both phosphorous and chlorine, try Bon Ami.
- Scouring powder - combine baking soda with a touch of salt.

Window/Glass Cleaner

- Combine 3 Tablespoons ammonia, 1 Tablespoon white vinegar and 3/4 cup of water or 1/4 cup white vinegar and 1 quart of water. Wipe dry with newspaper.

Hand Cleaner

- To clean hands of paint or grease, massage them with baby oil, mineral oil, margarine or butter. Wipe them dry with a paper towel then wash hands with soap and water.



Air Freshener

- Herbal potpourri
- Cotton balls soaked in vanilla
- Boil cinnamon and cloves in a small amount of water
- An open box of baking soda absorbs refrigerator odors
- Borax sprinkled in the bottom of garbage or yard waste to control odors.

Concrete Cleaner

- Remove grease from garage floors by sprinkling the area with fresh cat litter. Let set for a few hours then sweep up.

