

# READ THE LABEL - SAVE THE PLANET

## ALTERNATIVE CLEANING PRODUCTS

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### IS IT SAFE?

Just out of curiosity, take out all the products under your kitchen sink or in the bathroom - look at all the chemical compounds they contain. How many? Thousands? Millions? We now rely on

a staggering cocktail of man made products to get us through our daily lives. Many are a convenience - but there are often simple, inexpensive products, used for generations, that are safe for you **and** the environment.

**Baking Soda** ..... 1/2 cup in the laundry wash helps balance the Ph. and makes your laundry detergent work harder; 1/2 cup in the rinse cycle makes clothes smell 'outdoors fresh'; a damp sponge and lowly baking soda is a safe abrasive for cleaning walls and furniture; a sprinkle on carpets or pet bedding followed by vacuuming is a great deodorizer.

**Borax** ..... 1/2 cup of borax and boiling water can unclog a drain in 15 minutes according to Readers Digest©. 1 cup plus 1/4 cup of lemon juice makes an effective stain removing paste for porcelain or stainless steel sinks. 2 tbs. and 2 cups water cleans windows leaving them 'streak free'.

**White Vinegar** ..... and a toothbrush will return grout to sparkling white. It will remove hard water stains and the grunge in shower doors.

**Castile Soap** ..... is made from vegetable rather than animal or synthetic oils. In bar or liquid form it is a gentle alternative to detergents.

**Local: MoonWorks** of Suttons Bay produces an all natural laundry soap with no artificial brighteners or surfactant additives. **Selestial Soap LLC** of Traverse City has a 100% hypoallergenic products with no dyes, phosphates, petroleum compounds or artificial perfume. **Creation Herb Farm** Frankfort, MI has a wide selection of natural compounds and offers a soap making school.

### Not in My Septic System!



#### X Cloggers

diapers, cat litter, cigarette filters, coffee grounds, grease, feminine hygiene products, etc.

#### X Killers

household chemicals, gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, paint, etc.

Many detergents are made from petrochemicals. A 'surfactant', detergent lowers the surface tension of water creating bubbles and making it possible for oils and water to mix.

Surfactants are now found in streams, rivers and lakes.

**A Small Contribution:  
Minimize your Impact on  
the environment .....**

When it comes to disposing of the 'stuff' we use every day, we usually empty down the sink or toilet without a second thought. Sanitation requires good treatment and dispersal of human biological waste but the challenge is to keep pace with ever multiplying cocktail of man-made chemical products. Finding detectable levels of chemical compounds, such as pesticides and pharmaceuticals in surface and drinking water is a growing concern. Wastewater technologies were designed for human waste not chemicals.