

## Source Control

### Alternative Cleaners

#### Be careful of what goes down your drain!

You may be cleaning your sink and toilet, but you could be harming your septic system at the same time. Some cleaning products can be harmful to the natural bacteria that digest the sludge in your septic tank. Soil beneath the drainfield also contains microorganisms that treat the wastewater, which are sensitive to harmful chemicals. Chemical cleaners can also pass through the soil, polluting groundwater and the surrounding environment. If you must use harmful products, such as bleach or ammonia, remember that a little bit in moderation will be okay but it is preferable to avoid if possible. Powder or flake dishwasher or laundry detergents can clog drainfield pipes and are not recommended.

#### Septic Smart Cleaning Ingredients:

- ✓ Baking soda
- ✓ Borax
- ✓ Vinegar
- ✓ Baby oil
- ✓ Pure soap flakes
- ✓ Phosphate free dish soap
- ✓ Salt
- ✓ Lemon juice
- ✓ Washing soda

Here are some natural alternative cleaners that are septic safe.

#### Drain Cleaner

- 1/2 cup baking soda
- 1/2 cup white vinegar
- 2 litres boiling water

Pour baking soda down the drain, followed by white vinegar. Cover and let stand for 15 minutes. Flush with boiling water. If this is done weekly, greases that may have built up will melt. Note: Do NOT use on ceramic toilets, as the boiling water may crack them.

#### All Purpose Cleaner

- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 1 cup to 1 litre of warm water

#### Scouring Solution

- 1 part baking soda
- 1 part salt
- 1 part water

Mix equal parts baking soda and salt. Add enough water to produce a paste; apply and scrub with a scouring pad. Alternatively, mix equal parts of vinegar and salt or Borax and lemon juice.

#### Hand Cleaner:

To get paint or grease off your hands rub with baby oil, wipe dry and wash.

#### Window Cleaner

- 1 part white vinegar
- 1 part water

Mix ingredients together and spray onto windows or mirrors. Wipe off with a cloth.

#### Tub / Tile Cleaner

- Mix 1/4 cup baking soda and 1/2 cup white vinegar

#### Laundry detergent

- 1 cup pure soap flakes or pure soap powder
- 3 tbsp washing soda

#### Bleach alternative:

- 1/2 cup Borax
- 4 litres of hot water

#### Toilet Bowl Cleaner

- 2 tbs baking soda
- Lemon juice

Sprinkle a few tablespoons of baking soda and scrub with a brush. Add a few drops of lemon for freshness.

#### Kitchen cleaner

- 1/4 tsp of dish soap
- White vinegar

Mix in a spray bottle.

#### Oven cleaner:

- 4 tablespoons baking soda
- 1 litre warm water.
- 1/2 cup vinegar
- Lemon juice

Dissolve baking soda in water. Add vinegar and lemon juice to cut grease.

