

Other Kitchen Tips:

Food burned in pan: Boil 1/2" of water with a little dish soap in the pan. Let the liquid cool. The burned food will be easy to remove.

Garbage disposal odors: Put lemon or lime pieces through every few days for a clean fresh smell.

Porcelain: Use a paste of cream of tartar and water

Coffee stains: Use a paste of baking soda and water.

Rust: Use warm vinegar and scrub to remove rust from dishes, sinks and teapots

Silver: Try baking soda and water or buttermilk for silver-soaking solutions.

Boil silver for 2-3 minutes in a mixture of 1 cup water, 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon salt and a piece of aluminum foil. Rinse pieces thoroughly with water and dry with a soft cloth.

Toothpaste will brighten silver jewelry with mild brushing.

Chrome: Dry baking soda

Copper: Try rubbing with ketchup.

Dip the copper in warm vinegar then sprinkle salt on the piece and scrub with a soft cloth. Rinse with clean water.

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. II: Kitchen



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.

In the Kitchen

- **Sinks/CounterTops**

Mix 1 gallon of hot water with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of vinegar can replace ammonia or chlorine. Safe for all surfaces and can be rinsed with water.

- **Disinfectant**

Make your own disinfectant by mixing $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of borax with 1 gallon of hot water. This replaces other products that are poisonous and flammable.

- **Oven Cleaner**

Fill a small glass bowl with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup full-strength ammonia, place in oven and close. Let stand overnight before cleaning.

Dampen the spill and sprinkle salt on it while the oven is still warm. Scrape the spill away when cooled.

Grease spots can be removed with a vinegar soaked rag.

Tough spots can be eliminated by wetting the area then lightly scrubbing with baking soda and steel wool pads.

When food spills over and burns on the oven floor, sprinkle a bit of salt on the mess. The smoke will be reduced and the spill easier to clean after the oven cools.

- **Microwave Oven**

Mix together 2 Tbsp. of lemon juice or vinegar and 2 cups of water in a 4 cup glass microwave safe bowl. Microwave on HIGH for two to three minutes. Carefully remove the bowl and wipe the microwave with paper towels. Repeat as necessary.

- **Drain Cleaner**

Keep drains open and clean with a plunger or metal snake

To clean sluggish drains, pour $\frac{1}{2}$ cup baking soda down the drain. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup white vinegar and cover the drain. Let this mixture foam for a few minutes, then pour 8 cups of boiling water down the drain to flush it. Do not use this combination after using any commercial drain opener or cleaner

