Why should you avoid CHEMICAL CLEANERS?

The air in a typical home is 2-5 times more polluted than the air outdoors.\(^1\)

Of the 17,000 chemicals in conventional cleaners, 70% have not been tested for effects on human health.\(^2\)

Chemical cleaners used at home can harm waterways when flushed or dumped down a drain.

How can chemical cleaners affect you?

Every day in the U.S., 300 children ages 0-19 are treated in emergency rooms for poisoning.

And every day, two children die from poisoning.\(^3\)

Toxins can be absorbed through skin, eyes, and lungs.

Repeat exposure can cause anemia, low birthweights, reduced fertility, cancer, and liver and kidney damage.

How can you tell if a product is dangerous?

Look for these signal words on the label:

- POISON
- DANGER
- WARNING
- CAUTION

Always read the label and follow the directions.

NEVER MIX CHEMICALS

Combining chemicals can release a dangerous gas.

Photos courtesy of the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, King County, Washington

\(^1\) epa.gov/air/basic.html  
\(^3\) cdc.gov/safechild/poisoning/
What are your SAFE CLEANING ALTERNATIVES?

Homemade cleaners are easy to make, effective and safe.

Alternative cleaners can easily be made at home with some basic, safe ingredients. The most common ingredients include:

- Baking Soda
- Lemon Juice
- Washing Soda
- White Vinegar
- Borax
- Dish Soap

Non-toxic cleaners are available in stores. Did you know...

These seals can be found on products that pass rigorous safety and environmental standards.

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Non-toxic cleaning products are similar in cost and effectiveness.

We comparing several non-toxic cleaners with their brand name, chemical counterparts based on online prices and customer reviews.

Non-toxic products had an average price $.07 lower than chemical cleaners.

Average Non-toxic Product: ★★★★★
Average Chemical Cleaner: ★★★★★

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Are homemade cleaners effective?

YES.
This sink was cleaned with just baking soda and vinegar. This is just one example of what you can do in your home to decrease pollution and keep you and your family safer.

Check out our website for more recipes:

cityoftacoma.org/greenercleaners