

GREEN CLEANING

Some cleaning products may be harmful to your septic system, to your property and your environment, and to your community's drinking water sources. **Avoid over-using certain chemicals, such as bleach.**

Avoid using drain cleaners completely. Even a small amount of drain cleaner can kill the bacteria in your septic tank. Here are some tank-friendly (and environmentally friendly) household items that can be used around the house for cleaning:

- **Boiling Water**
- **Soda**
- **Liquid Soap**
- **Lemon Juice**
- **Borax**
- **White Vinegar**



ALL-PURPOSE CLEANERS

Mix 1 teaspoon Borax with 1 litre of warm water. Add a splash of lemon juice or vinegar to cut grease.

Mix 3 teaspoons Borax and 1 teaspoon soap in 1 litre of water. Put in a spray bottle.

DISINFECTANT

Mix 1/4 cup Borax in 2 litres of hot water.

OVEN CLEANER

Mix 2 teaspoons Borax with 2 teaspoons liquid soap in warm water. Put in spray bottle. Spray on and leave for 20 minutes. Scrub with fine steel wool if necessary.

Dissolve 3 tablespoons of washing soda with 1 litre of warm water. Spray on and leave for 20 minutes. Scrub with fine steel wool if necessary.

WINDOW CLEANER

One part water to one part vinegar in a spray bottle. If windows are really streaky, it may be wax from commercial cleaners. Wipe wax away with rubbing alcohol then use vinegar solution.

DRAIN CLEANER

Pour boiling water down the drain to unclog it.

If boiling water doesn't work, try a plunger or a drain snake.

For more information, please ask us for copies of these informative materials from the Province of Ontario: *Rural Septic System Checklist*; *SepticSmart! Understanding Your Home's Septic System* (12-page booklet); *SepticSmart! Advanced Treatment Systems - Alternatives to Conventional Septic Systems* (12-page booklet); *SepticSmart! DVD*.

We also encourage you to review our Protecting our drinking water together: Septic systems brochure and the fact sheet about mandatory septic inspections for some systems in municipal wellhead protection areas. Ask us about whether your septic system is assessed as a significant threat to drinking water and whether it requires a septic inspection under the Ontario Building Code.



Ausable Bayfield
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Source Protection
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The information on this page was adapted from materials prepared by B. M. Ross and Associates Ltd. for the Township of Huron-Kinloss (Point Clark; Ripley; and Lucknow) and the municipality's community septic inspection program.

