

## Flies

- Don't spray, swat (At least purchase products that contain no pesticides)
- Non-insecticide flypaper works great



## Moths

- Use cedar blocks or chips instead of mothballs. (Mothballs contain a chemical called p-dichlorobenzene which is a known carcinogen)
- Store sweaters in airtight containers or zipper bags



## Mice/Rats

- Traps are the non-toxic choice



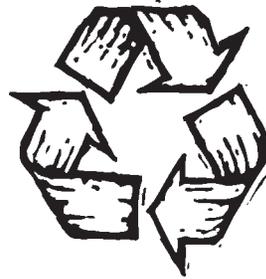
Always avoid poisons if there are children or pets in the house

## Contact Information

City Engineering/Stormwater Drainage  
(719) 385-5980  
[www.springsgov.com/cityengineering](http://www.springsgov.com/cityengineering)

Colorado Water Protection Project  
(303) 861-5195  
(888) 861-9969  
[www.ourwater.org](http://www.ourwater.org)

El Paso County  
Solid Waste Management  
(719) 520-7878  
[www.elpasoco.com](http://www.elpasoco.com)



# Substitutes for Household Chemicals

Vol. III: Living Room and  
Pest Control



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 Living Room:

### General household stains

- Clean and disinfect with borax solutions

### Pet stain/odor

- Use a mixture of  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup vinegar in  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup liquid soap. Rub in the mixture, blot the stain and rinse with water

### Furniture polish

- Mix of 1 part lemon juice to 2 parts mineral or vegetable oil
- For scratches, mix 1 teaspoon each of lemon juice and mineral oil

### Painted wall and woodwork cleaner

- Combine  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup ammonia with 1 gallon warm water OR combine  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup liquid dish detergent with 1 gallon water

### Carpet/rug cleaner-deodorizer

- Cornstarch

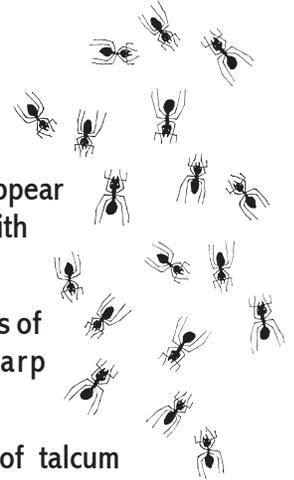


## Pest Control

### Ants

- When ants first appear wipe them away with a soapy sponge
- Ants will avoid lines of powder and sharp crystals

Sprinkle barriers of talcum powder, chalk, bone meal, cayenne pepper, or boric acid across their trail



### Roaches

- Try a light dusting of borax around the refrigerator, stove and duct work
- Combine sugar, flour and boric acid to poison roaches. They will carry the concoction back to the nest



### Fleas

- Prevention works the best. Keep pet's bed laundered. Regular vacuuming will eliminate them

