

# Testimonials to Workshops and Use of Nontoxic Cleaners

## **Gail (DHMC Workshop)**

“Thank you for your great presentation at D-H. I have used both cleaners that we made and added some of the washing soda to my laundry. It was wonderful to be able to bring the samples home to try.

The cleaners worked great! I had added an essential oil to the window cleaner (I think orange/citrus), and noticed it continued to smell more like the vinegar. It still was a nice aroma and cleaned quite well. I used paper towels, but know it's suggested to use newspaper.

The all-purpose cleaner was very nice as well, although did use a Lysol product for some more grimy areas. I was cleaning my kitchen floor. So needed more “punch”. I was using a sponge for the cleaning, so maybe the new cleaner would be better with the other cloths discussed (the name is escaping me now).

The washing soda left my laundry with such a nice clean scent. I use vinegar as a softener, and found with the washing soda, the vinegar scent dissipated. I purchased more washing soda yesterday.

I haven't used the soap yet, maybe in some of this weekend's cleaning projects.

I am going to pick up the book you suggested (this weekend), and know I will find more great cleaners. I'll let you know what I try.”

## **Charlotte (DHMC Workshop)**

“I haven't had a chance to use the cleaners we made yet but I thought the websites you gave to be able to look up what is in the stuff we currently have was great. I have parents that like hard facts so I can actually show them this and hopefully it will change their minds on the chemicals they buy. It was a question asked by a participant but maybe something you should include in your slides to talk about where/how people can safely get rid of the chemicals they currently have if they want to shift to new friendly ones. I will be doing some cleaning this week so I will let you know my thoughts about the cleaners then”

## **Marcy (DHMC Workshop)**

“Is there an alternative to vodka in the room spray? Something other than alcohol? Not something I typically have in the house, the room spray is something I’m most interested in trying, but not something I want to buy vodka just for that. Could something like a rubbing alcohol be substituted?”

Jenevra- “I had a great time meeting you, and am so excited that so many people were interested in trying cleaners at home and keeping in contact with me.

Rubbing alcohol can be substituted; I am just assuming that it will change the smell a bit (I have never tried it myself). Any emulsifier to mix the essential oil and water together should work, and there are quite a few out there. Vegetable glycerin, jojoba oil, and fractionated coconut oil come to mind, at least for body perfumes. I do not see why using those would cause any problems, although you, perhaps, wouldn’t have to use as much.

As far as general feedback from you goes, I am hoping to know how you like the two cleaners we made in the workshop. If you try other cleaners either from the two pamphlets or recipes you find elsewhere, I would love to hear about how they work for you as well. I would love to hear any suggestions or comments about the workshop itself (parts/info you found particularly helpful or thought were unnecessary) as well.”

Marcy- “Thank you. I’m looking forward mostly to a nice & safe air freshener, although the all-purpose cleaner has worked nicely in my sinks. I suspect the glass cleaner will work nicely on the bathroom mirror as I know that vinegar is supposed to prevent the fogging up of mirrors.

I did find this recipe that indicates you can use rubbing alcohol and/or vanilla as well.”

## **Anonymous (Newport Workshop)**

Survey Monkey Response from unknown person who attended second workshop:  
tried all purpose and window cleaner, found both very effective, tried drain cleaner

most helpful part of workshop:

*Hands on. I had recipes for years but never tried any until now. I didn't know what to buy.*

to the question what can be changed to make workshop better:

*I can't think of anything. Jenevra did a great job.*

*hasn't used any additional resources or found additional websites*

## **Lori (Newport Workshop)**

*Hi, Jenevra. This got lost in my inbox while I was on vacation. Sorry.*

*I have used the cleaners and like them. I refused to buy window cleaner when my husband asked so he's had to use it too. I passed your contact info on to our sustainable committee to have someone come do the program at Eastman. Thanks again. It was great.*

## **Tracey (Lebanon Co-op Workshop)**

*I am still playing around with all of this. I did use the window wash and it works wonderfully, I won't need to buy commercial any more! I made the foaming hand soap with 3 drops of sweet orange essential oil and 3 drops lemon essential oil and I went with the higher amount of liquid castile soap (2 TBSP) which made a nice thicker foam and I like it and it smells really clean. I need to pick up a jug of distilled water today so I can make the air freshener (I keep forgetting to get it but I have added it to my shopping list now). I also found online that putting a few drops of essential oil on a cotton ball and putting it in a small jar in various rooms acts as an air freshener. I am in the process of doing that now (I have a bunch of tiny little antique vases that my grandmother collected and I am going to use those). I'm interested to see how long the scent lasts (I'll let you know in my next email). I also found online a recipe for drain cleaner. I have some "sluggish" drains in my bathrooms (not clogged but water goes down very slowly) and I tried it and this seems to work!*

*pour 1/2 c. baking soda down drain*

*add 1/2 c. white vinegar*

*let sit for 15 min*

*rinse with a pot of boiling water*

*I really enjoyed our little class at the Lebanon co-op. I have been slowly moving towards "green cleaning" and this was the boost I needed to get me going.*

*I switched over 2 years ago to using just organic gardening products, and this is the year to switch over my household cleaning products. Since our class I have cleaned out my cleaning supplies cupboard and I have a box full of stuff to get rid of at the next hazardous waste collection day.*

*I went to the upper valley co-op and bought a couple of those hand soap foam dispensers and plan to mix up my hand soaps this weekend. I have been using the disinfectant spray that we made in class to do my kitchen counter tops and I plan over the 4th of July weekend to wash my windows with the window spray. I am using baking soda now as my abrasive cleaner and it does work really well, also using white vinegar as a toilet bowl cleaner. I am looking forward to also*

*making the air freshener that you had in class - it smelled so nice. I hope to do that this weekend as well.*

*I also ventured out online and found a fantastic ceramic tile/grout cleaner that works amazing. I have been doing a little of my kitchen floor each night after work. It had white vinegar, baking soda, lemon juice, and water in it. I have used so many commercial grout cleaners that smelled horrible and never worked well, and it turns out the simplest homemade one works the best.*

