Though many assume that some government agency oversees the safety of the multi-billion-dollar household cleaning products industry, it is largely unregulated. *Not all ingredients are required to be listed on the packaging.*

**What you should know:**
- Avoid cleaners marked “Danger” or “Poison” on the label, and look out for other tell-tale hazard warnings, such as "corrosive" or "may cause burns."
- Avoid products that list active ingredients of chlorine or ammonia, which can cause respiratory and skin irritation and will create toxic fumes if accidentally mixed together.
- Protect water quality and aquatic life by refus[ing to purchase detergents containing phosphates.](www.ewg.org/guides/cleaners/content/top_products)
- Terms such as "natural" and "eco-friendly" shouldn't be equated with safety unless they're backed up with specific ingredient information, such as "solvent-free," "no petroleum-based ingredients," "no phosphates."
- For complete information about a product you are using, search for the product’s safety data sheet (SDS).

**Alternative Products:**
- Seventh Generation line of natural cleaning products are a good alternative to traditional cleaning products and are available at stores such as Giant, CVS, Target and Walmart.

**Homemade chemical-free cleaning product recipes:**

**All Purpose Cleaner:**
½ cup vinegar, 1 cup water, 2 tsp dish soap, and 15 drops essential oil

**Bathroom Cleaner:**
¾ cup of baking soda, juice from ½ lemon, 3 tablespoons of salt, 3 tablespoons of liquid dishwashing soap, ½ cup of vinegar, 10 drops of essential oil.

**Glass Cleaner:**
¼ cup vinegar and rubbing alcohol, 1 Tbsp cornstarch, 2 cups water

For more information, visit these websites:
- [www.ewg.org/guides/cleaners/content/top_products](http://www.ewg.org/guides/cleaners/content/top_products)
- [www1.villanova.edu/villanova/fmo/ehs.html](http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/fmo/ehs.html)

---

**Ionized Water**

In an effort to reduce physical and environmental dangers caused by the toxins in traditional cleaning products, Villanova has partnered with ARAMARK to implement the use of “Blue” cleaning. Blue cleaning uses ionized water to clean and disinfect surfaces, floors and windows on campus. It has been tested for a number of years before its implementation in 2010 in universities across the nation.

**How it Works:**
1. Ordinary tap water is given a mild electrical charge creating positive and negatively charged ions.
2. The ions attach themselves to dirt and germs with the opposite charge.
3. When enough ions have built up, they repel dirt particles and rupture germ cells in less than 20 seconds. *Ionized water kills 99% of germs instantly.*

**Why do I care about this?**
Ionized water cleaning solutions are *odourless, non-toxic* and do not contain harsh chemicals that are found in traditional cleaners. This means that the cleaning products used by Villanova provide a safer dining, living, learning and working environment for our custodians, students and employees!

---

**WARNING:** Research has shown that traditional cleaners have chemicals that have been known to aggravate the respiratory tract and exacerbate conditions such as asthma, act as a skin irritant, and disrupt the endocrine system which is responsible for regulating hormones.
For RA Community Building event

**All Purpose Cleaner**

12 oz spray bottle

- ½ cup white vinegar
- 2 tsp dish soap (Castile)
- 10 drops essential oil
- 1 cup water

**Window Cleaner**

12 oz spray bottle

- 2 Tbsp white vinegar
- 2 Tbsp rubbing alcohol
- 1 ½ tsp cornstarch
- 1 cup water
- 5 drops essential oil