

Beware of “Homemade” Cleaning Mixtures

Although some consumers may believe they are making a safer choice by using homemade mixtures to clean their homes, the Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association (CCSPA) says there is a potential down side to using these so-called “alternatives.”

The CCSPA says unlike the wide array of commercially formulated household cleaning products that are regulated by government and have been thoroughly tested for safety and effectiveness, homemade mixtures have not been subjected to the same rigorous standards.

Shannon Coombs, CCSPA’s Executive Director, says homemade cleaning mixtures present many possible pitfalls for consumers, including:

- Not being properly labeled with information about the mixture’s ingredients, and usage and safety instructions;
- Not being evaluated for effectiveness, which can lead to greater amounts of the homemade mixture being used, creating further unsafe conditions;
- Causing unintended consequences, including damage to the surfaces on which they are used or having unknown effects on the environment; and
- Being incompatible with the container selected to hold them, which might not have safety features such as child-resistant closures.

For more information about cleaning and health, check out the CCSPA’s website at www.healthycleaning101.org.