All purpose cleaner:
2 tsp. borax
1 tsp. soap
1 qt. water
Mix together and store in a spray bottle.

Scouring powder:
1 part soap
1 part borax, baking soda or table salt.
Combine and scrub surface with a sponge or a firm-bristled brush. Change proportions if needed.

Oven cleaner:
♦ Avoid overfilling pans.
♦ Scrape up spills as soon as food is cool enough to handle.
♦ Put a cookie sheet on the bottom rack when baking.
When clean up is needed:
Use steel wool and washing soda with a small amount of water.

Last resort:
Use 1/2 cup ammonia dissolved in 1 gal. water for scrubbing; provide plenty of ventilation.

Metal cleaners and polishes:
Aluminum
Dip a soft, damp cloth in lemon juice and rinse with warm water, or soak overnight in a mixture of vinegar and water. Rub metal, then rinse and polish with a dry cloth.

Brass
Mix equal parts of salt and flour with a little vinegar, then rub with a damp cloth. Rinse polish with dry cloth.

Copper
Rub with lemon juice and salt or hot vinegar and salt. Rinse and polish with dry cloth.

Gold
Wash in lukewarm, soapy water. Dry and polish with a chamois cloth.

Silver
Rub with a paste of baking soda and water. Rinse and polish with a dry cloth. Or soak silver in 1 quart of water with 1 tsp. baking soda, 1 tsp. salt and a piece of aluminum foil.
Glass and window cleaner:
For routine cleaning:
- 3 Tbsp. vinegar
- 1 quart warm water

For dirty windows:
- First wash with warm soapy water, then use vinegar and water mixture described above.

Carpets:
- 2 parts cornmeal
- 1 part borax
Sprinkle liberally on carpet, leave for 1 hour, then vacuum.

For tougher stains:
- Repeatedly blot with vinegar in soapy water.

For red wine spills:
- Blot with white wine and warm, soapy water.

To deodorize:
- Sprinkle carpet with baking powder, then vacuum.

Furniture polish:
Unwaxed wood
- 1 tsp. lemon oil
- 1 pint mineral oil
Apply with soft cloth. Buff hard with a clean cloth until smooth and dry.