

## 4. Greener Cleaners

Whether on sewer or septic, we all need to be careful of what goes down the drain. Small amounts of most household cleaning products should not harm your septic system. However, some strong chemical products can affect the microorganisms and bacteria treating the wastewater. If you use a strong cleaner like bleach or ammonia, use it in moderation.

### Ingredients to Keep on Hand

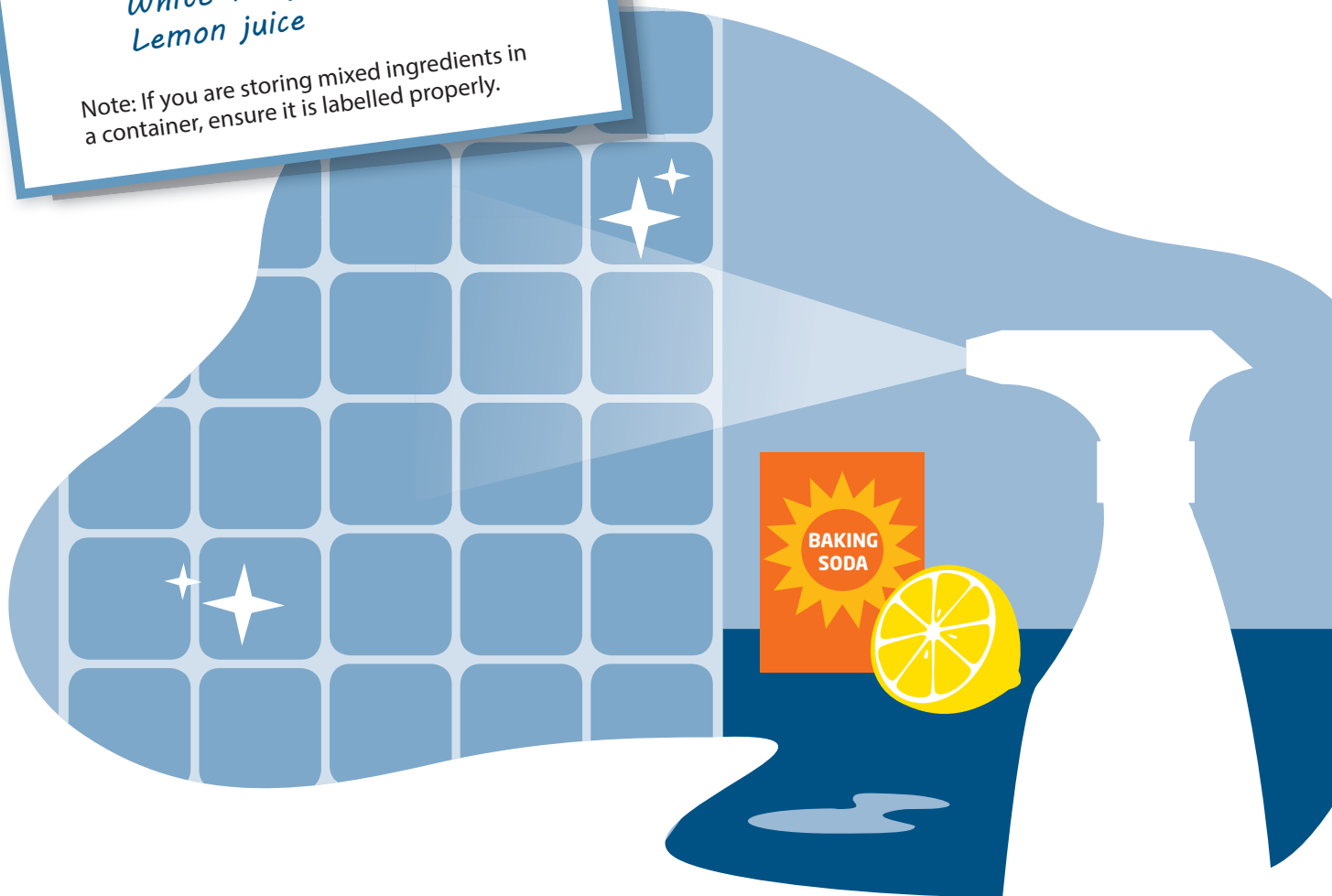
#### Cleaning Ingredients

Baking soda  
White vinegar  
Lemon juice

Note: If you are storing mixed ingredients in a container, ensure it is labelled properly.

Other cleaning tips include:

- Use liquid detergent instead of powdered detergents which can clog the pipes in the drainfield.
- Stagger your laundry by doing one load of laundry per day instead of all at once.
- Avoid running multiple water-using appliances at the same time or back-to-back. High flows in a short period of time can also re-suspend solids that have settled in the tank and push them into the drainfield.



## Recipes for Greener Cleaners

### Simple All-Purpose Cleaner

- ½ cup vinegar
  - 1 cup to 1 litre of warm water
- Mix ingredients together and apply.

### Window Cleaner

- 1 part white vinegar
- 1 part water

Mix ingredients together and spray onto windows or mirrors. Wipe off with a cloth.

### Toilet Bowl Cleaner

- 2 tbsp baking soda
- Lemon juice

Sprinkle a few tablespoons of baking soda and scrub with a brush. Add a few drops of lemon for freshness.

### Scouring Solution

- 1 part baking soda
- 1 part water

Mix all ingredients together and apply to hard surfaces.

### Drain Cleaner

- ½ cup baking soda
- ½ cup white vinegar
- 2 litres boiling water

Pour baking soda down the drain, followed by white vinegar. Cover and let stand for 15 minutes. Flush with boiling water. Perform weekly if grease builds up.

*Note: Do NOT use on ceramic toilets, as the boiling water may crack them.*

