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Driveway Maintenance and Eco-Friendly Weed-Killing

Have you received a notice about maintaining your extended driveway? Are you trying to control weeds on your lot and don't want to use commercial or costly chemicals? We have researched other options for you, including recipes using common household staples

Weed Killing

There are inexpensive, people- and pet-friendly ways to kill off isolated areas of weeds & vegetation growth, and which don't involve dangerous chemicals. **Boiling water** will kill off vegetation. **Vinegar** and a mix of **vinegar-lemon** juice will also lower the soil's pH enough to kill weeds, but will not kill the roots. **Repeated application** may weaken the root system enough to eventually kill the plant/weed. Adding **salt** to the vinegar will help dry out the weed, and a little **liquid dish soap** added will help the solution stick to the unwanted plant.

To properly use these methods, protect any "keeper" plants or grass with a tarp and apply the mixture **ONLY** to unwanted vegetation. The mixture can be re-applied after 24 hours until the weeds are completely dead.

Any combination of salt, vinegar, and even sugar will be an effective weed killer. Use a little liquid dish soap to help the mixture stick to the unwanted plants.

See a tested "recipe" below.

Mike's Weed Killer

1 gallon white vinegar
1 cup Epsom salts
¼ cup Blue Dawn dish soap

Apply directly to the unwanted vegetation/weeds. They will be dead the next day. Lasts for about 6 months

Note: Because household weed-killing can still harm the soil's pH and deplete nutrients, it is worthwhile to inquire about pet-safe weed control chemicals at your local garden center.

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Weed Prevention

It turns out **corn meal** is an effective pre-emergent. Corn gluten interferes with seed germination, preventing seeds from developing, but it doesn't affect mature plants. So if you have an area where you need to prevent weeds or grass from growing (a driveway, walk, path, or garden bed) and you will **NOT** be planting seeds, you can spread corn meal or work it into your soil. Top with your driveway material (crushed stone, gravel, re-grind), place your walkway pavers, or plant your mature (already-sprouted) vegetables or flowers.

You can always resort to a 100% proven method for killing weeds without harming pets or the environment: pull them by hand

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