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## **CONSUMERS MAY BE TAKING HARMFUL STEPS TO CLEAN PRODUCE**

ATLANTA, February 15, 2005 -- How does America clean its fruits and vegetables? Using water, as The Food and Drug Administration recommends, would appear to be the most obvious answer.

But a recent survey by Beaumont Products, Inc., the makers of Veggie Wash® 100% Natural Fruit and Vegetable Wash, found almost 40 percent of respondents take extra steps to ensure that their produce is clean and free of residue. However, many use non-food grade soaps and chemicals to accomplish that.

The survey of more than 250 Americans was aimed at finding what motivates consumers to buy produce cleaners like Veggie Wash. Those surveyed were asked how they clean their fruits and vegetables.

Approximately 60 percent use running water only, while 22 percent use soap and water. A branded produce cleaner and vinegar was each used by 6 percent of respondents, while bleach, other methods, or nothing at all each accounted for 2 percent.

These consumer habits raise an important issue: while it is important to make certain fruits and vegetables are clean of potentially harmful residue, cleaning produce with other substances not made for human consumption could possibly cause more harm than good. Soaps and other chemicals don't necessarily cut through the wax on fruits and vegetables because they are not designed for this purpose; instead, added residue may remain from the soap and even be absorbed into the produce itself.

According to The Partnership for Food Safety Education, a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public about safe food handling and preparation, detergents and bleach are not labeled safe for use on food. Consumption of these products can lead to such illnesses as diarrhea and nausea. Other homemade, edible washes using ingredients like vinegar and baking soda can leave a residual aftertaste.

For the large portion of consumers who take additional steps when preparing their fruits and vegetables, produce cleaners specially formulated for this purpose are the best solution. Even buying organic does not necessarily guarantee the produce is free of residue. Fruit and vegetable washes, especially those such as Veggie Wash® that are all natural, made of citrus, corn, coconut, and other food-grade ingredients, are designed to safely and effectively cut through wax to rid produce of most hidden pesticides, chemicals, and soil.

### **About Beaumont Products**

A corporation based in Kennesaw, Ga., Beaumont Products Inc., has been manufacturing and distributing all natural consumer products since 1991. Among the firm's leading products are Veggie Wash 100% natural fruit and vegetable wash; Citrus Magic® 100% natural air fresheners and cleaners; and Natural Causes® DEET-free natural insect repellent. Beaumont Products is dedicated to producing environmentally friendly products and does no animal testing.

Veggie Wash can be found at retailers across the country including Albertson's, Safeway, Target Supercenters, Ralph's, King Sooper, Whole Foods, or through the website, [www.veggie-wash.com](http://www.veggie-wash.com).

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