

HOMEMADE HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCT - RECIPES

All-Purpose Kitchen/Bathroom cleaner – dissolve ½ cup washing soda per bucket of warm water, wash surface, then rinse. Not recommended for aluminum surfaces or no-wax floors. Cleans walls, countertops, refrigerators, appliances, tiles, sinks, tub/shower, and toilet bowls.

Aluminum cleaner – use a soft cloth with a solution of 2 tablespoons Cream of Tartar and one quart of hot water (can also use hydrogen peroxide for deeper cleaning). This works well for aluminum pans which have discoloration or any rusty drains, pans, or stains.

Baby clothes – vinegar helps break down uric acid and soapy residue, leaving baby clothes soft and fresh. Add 1 cup of white distilled vinegar to the laundry rinse cycle

Bathroom Cleaner - spray straight vinegar on shower as an after-shower spray that you just leave on. The smell dissipates as soon as it's dry. Some people add a few drops of essential oils for a nicer scent. This works well and is especially effective for hard water stains, like on the shower curtain. **Do not use on tile and grout as it may eat away the grout.*

Bathroom mold cleaner – Mix 1 part hydrogen peroxide (3% solution) and 2 parts water. Spray on areas with mold; wait at least one hour before rinsing or using shower. **Warning:** *be careful with hydrogen peroxide; it can take the color out of fabrics.*

Brass cleaner – Mix equal parts water, salt and vinegar.

Brass, Bronze, and Copper rust/tarnish remover – sprinkle salt on half of a cut lemon, and use the cut end to polish the item. Rinse with warm water and polish with a clean cloth.

Brass, Bronze and Copper Tarnish Remover – polish using a rag with a bit of Worcestershire sauce. **Warning:** *first check to confirm that you have brass-plated steel by placing a magnet on it. If it sticks to the item, the base metal is steel thus cannot tolerate Worcester Sauce. Since the brass coating is thin on plated items, use dishwashing detergent and warm water to remove any dirt, and then polish with a soft cloth.*

Chrome Rust/Tarnish Remover – make a paste of salt and lemon juice and let sit on the chrome for a while. Rub with a rind of cut lemon, rinse off and dry. Then use 0000 steel wool to polish. **Warning:** Steel wool can leave very fine scratches on surfaces that can rust. Many boaters use bronze wool, which can be softer and does not rust.

Copper Kettle Cleaner – mix cream of tartar with lemon juice and rub copper with it, rinse.

Cutting Board Cleaner – clean and disinfect wood cutting boards by wiping with full-strength vinegar.

Deck Cleaner- Use 1 part vinegar to 8 parts warm water.

Dishwasher Detergent - mix 1 cup baking soda with 1 cup borax. You can use 2 packs of sugar free lemonade, if desired, for scent.

Drain Cleaner – to free clogs and help prevent clogs, pour ½ cup baking soda down the drain, then add ½ cup vinegar. Let it fizz for a few minutes. Then pour a teakettle full of boiling water down the drain. Repeat if needed.

Fabric Stain Remover – mix a few teaspoons of cream of tartar with some glycerin and use like spray-and-wash

Fiberglass Stain Remover – Make a paste of baking soda and water. Use lemon or lime juice to rinse cleanser off.

Flea/ Ticks on Pets – use white distilled vinegar in your pet's drinking water to help keep the animal free of fleas and ticks. Add to one quart of water: 1 teaspoon vinegar for animals > 40lbs; ½ teaspoon vinegar for animals > 10lbs; add ¼ teaspoon vinegar for animals under 10 lbs.

Floor Cleaner – to clean no-wax floors, add ½ cup vinegar to ½ gallon warm water & mop. No need to rinse!

Furniture Polish - Mix olive oil and vinegar in a one-to-one ratio and polish with a soft cloth, or look in a health-food store for food-grade linseed oil, often called omega-3 or flaxseed oil, rather than the type found in hardware stores* to finish furniture. Another variation of this recipe for people who love that Pledge smell is to add a touch of olive oil with lemon juice.

**Linseed oil sold for furniture use often contains dangerous petroleum distillates to speed evaporation.*

Grill Cleaner – 1 cup washing soda w 2 gallons warm water. Soak grill overnight, or longer. Use old towel, steel wool (very fine grade), or stiff brush, wipe or brush off the residue. Rinse with water and dry. Optional: coat with olive oil for protection.

Warning: *Do not use on aluminum; caustic produce, wear gloves and eye protection when using, can cause skin irritation (if you splash it on yourself, wash off with baking soda solution).*

Kitchen/Bathroom Cleaner – sprinkle Borax on damp sponge or cloth and wipe on shower/tub/tile/counters/appliances, then wipe clean.

Laundry Soap (liquid)– Grade 1/3 bar (Fels Naptha soap) soap, and put in a saucepan with 6 cups water. Bring to a simmer over medium heat and simmer until the soap flakes melt. Add ½ cup washing soda and ½ cup borax and stir until dissolved. Pour this in 5-gallon bucket and add another 6 cups hot water, mix well (you may add a few drops of essential oil for fragrance at this step, if desired). Add another gallon of warm water, plus 6 more cups and stir well. Let it sit for 24 hours and it will gel up a bit. Use about 1/2 cup per load. A paint mixer attachment for a drill can be used to mix the solution (should be consistency of egg drop soup). Use ½ cup per load.

Microwave Cleaner - mix ¼ cup vinegar and 1 cup water. Boil in microwave. The steam will loosen caked-on food, making it easier to clean. It will also get rid of odors.

Mildew Remover - dissolve together ½ cup vinegar with ½ cup borax in warm water. Apply with sponge or spray bottle.

Mold Remover - Use a stiff brush and a paste of baking soda and water to scrub mold off nonporous surfaces. Use a stiff-bristle toothbrush to get between tiles. And remember to wear gloves and a protective mask, since mold spores can be inhaled.

Mold/Mildew Remover – use vinegar and salt solution.

Multi-Purpose “Greener” Cleaner – Add following ingredients to 16-oz spray bottle, shake well: 1 teaspoon soap (flakes, powder, or liquid), 1 teaspoon borax, 2 tablespoons white distilled vinegar, 16 ounces (2 cups) water.

Non-abrasive Cleaner - mix 2 teaspoons of vinegar and 2 teaspoon of cream of tartar in a small dish (use 3 or 4 teaspoons of vinegar and 3 or 4 teaspoons of cream of tartar if you have more items to clean). Apply with your cleaning rag or scrub brush and let it sit for 5-10 minutes. Scrub. Wash with hot soapy water.

Oven Cleaner – mix 1 cup baking soda with enough water to make a paste. Apply to oven surface and let stand for 10-15 minutes. Use a scouring pad for scrubbing. Use a spatula to get under large food deposits.

Porcelain Sink/Tub/Commode Stain Remover - rub the porcelain surfaces with cream of tartar and watch the stains disappear.

Rust Stain Removal - spray vinegar or apply with brush, scrub in and then spray again and let stand for twenty to thirty minutes. After being allowed to sit, the rust stain should come off easily when vinegar is wiped away.

Rust Remover – (great for yard and garden tools, and patio furniture) soak metal in vinegar in a large container for 24 hours, wiping off residue every 6-8 hours, then neutralize in baking soda and water. If item is too large to soak, spray on vinegar or apply with brush, and let stand a couple of hours. Neutralize the acid on the rust with baking soda warm water, rinse, and wipe dry. Repeat if necessary.

Tip - After using vinegar for rust removal, let stand for a few days. The suspended rust particles will settle to the bottom and you can render the clean vinegar for a later use and dispose of the dirty remainder on the bottom.

Warning - acetic acid in the vinegar keeps working if left on metal, thus needs to be neutralized with baking soda dissolved in warm water to prevent corrosion.

Scouring – make a paste of baking soda and water.

Stain Remover - used with a little water or vinegar to lift even the most stubborn stains, including unattractive grout and mold and mildew stains.

Toilet Cleaner – sprinkle ¼ cup Borax into the bowl, then swish with toilet brush and let stand 30 minutes, or overnight.

Toilet Bowl Cleaner - sprinkle baking soda liberally inside bowl. Squeeze a couple drops soap (Castile or Murphy’s oil soap are good options) into the bowl and brush inside. Finish outside surfaces with rag sprinkled with baking soda.

Tub & Sink Cleaner – sprinkle baking soda liberally on porcelain fixtures and rub with a wet rag. If needed, you can add a little soap (Castile or Murphy's oil soap are good options) to the rag for more cleaning power. Rinse well to avoid leaving a hazy film. (Baking soda won't scratch porcelain)

Veggie Cleaner –for a non-toxic and inexpensive fruit and vegetable cleaner, spray white vinegar (or cider vinegar) thoroughly on produce, and then spray with 3 percent hydrogen peroxide (the same as found at the drugstore). Then rinse the produce under running water.

Window Cleaner – mix ¼ cup vinegar with 16 ounces water, put in spray bottle (recycled newspaper works perfect here).

HOMEMADE HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCT - INGREDIENTS

Baking Soda (sodium bicarbonate): Neutralizes acid, softens fabrics and water, cleans, deodorizes, scours, and polishes metals and plastics, removes stains from tile, glass, oven doors, and china, cleans the inside of refrigerators, removes baked-on food from pans. It also acts as a stain remover for fruit juices and other mild acids. *Warning – baking soda is an abrasive.*

Borax (sodium borate): A powder or crystalline salt sold in most grocery stores. It removes stains, deodorizes, disinfects, prevents mold/mildew, softens water, cleans wallpaper, painted walls and floors. It is safe for use on porcelain and fiberglass; removes soap scum, dirt and hard water deposits; cleans carpet stains; and improves the effectiveness of dishwashing detergent by reducing spots and film on glasses and tableware

Mineral Oil: Polishes furniture, chrome and metal.

White Vinegar: Good for a variety of household cleaning tasks, vinegar may be used to help kill germs and deodorize, cuts grease, removes mildew, odors, remove some carpet stains, and clean coffeemakers, chrome, cookware, and countertops. It can also be used to unclog drains. Note that while white vinegar has a slight scent while wet, when dry, it leaves no odor. However, don't use it on acetate fabrics, such as in some tablecloths, because it can dissolve the fibers.

Washing Soda (or SAL Soda) (sodium carbonate decahydrate): Commonly made from the ashes of plants. The high alkalinity of washing soda helps it remove a large variety of stains. It is a stronger alternative to baking soda and can be used as a water softener in conjunction with laundry detergents (gloves are recommended as it may irritate skin; not to be used with silks, woolens or vinyl). It can be used to cut grease, remove stains, soften water, clean walls, tiles, sinks and tubs. Removes baked on residue from grill grates.

Oxygen-based Bleach: Active ingredient is sodium per carbonate, which is hydrogen peroxide and soda ash (chlorine bleach is very toxic to all life). This can be used, if needed, to "bleach" decks and wood fences.

Hydrogen Peroxide: A mild alternative to chlorine bleach that can be used for stain removal and mild bleaching and killing germs.

Lemon: One of the strongest food-acids, effective against most household bacteria-deodorizes, cleans glass, cuts grease and removes stains. It can also be used to remove tarnish can be used on brass, copper, bronze and aluminum (not to be used on silver).

Worcestershire Sauce: Natural cleaners such as salt and vinegar.

Cream of Tartar (potassium bitartrate): A common baking ingredient. It is a mild acidic salt (not harmful) that comes from grapes. Cream of Tartar is an inexpensive and earth-friendly alternative to bleach, that can be used as a sink and bathtub stain remover, and to remove spots from aluminum cookware.