

All Purpose Cleaner

2 T vinegar
1 tsp. borax or washing soda
2 cups hot water
1/4 cup liquid soap

Mix everything but soap in a spray bottle and shake. Add 1/4 cup liquid soap last. Mix gently. Apply and wipe clean. Good for counters, wood work, appliances, etc.

Antiseptic Soap Spray

3 T liquid soap
20-30 drops tea tree oil
2 cups water

Mix in a spray bottle and apply.

TIP: Hydrogen peroxide (3%) by itself may also be used as a mild antiseptic

Windows and Glass

In a spray bottle mix a 50/50 solution of white vinegar and warm water.

Spray on and wipe off with newspaper.

OR

2 T borax or washing soda
*Mix ingredients. Apply to surface with newspaper.
Wipe clean.*

TIP: For fingerprints, use 1 T. lemon juice with
1 qt. vinegar water

Drain Cleaner

1/2 cup salt
1/2 cup baking soda.

Pour salt down the drain, followed by baking soda. Follow with 6 cups boiling water. Let sit overnight. Flush with water. For stubborn clogs use a plunger or mechanical snake.

Oven Cleaner

Sprinkle water generously over the bottom of the oven. Then cover with baking soda until white and leave overnight.

TIP: Sprinkle salt on spills while oven is still warm. When oven cools, scrape and wipe the area clean.

Tile, Tub and Toilet Cleaner

1/3 cup baking soda
1/3 cup borax
1 tsp. vegetable based soap

Mix and add enough water to make a paste. Apply with sponge or scrubby. Rinse well after use.

Scouring Paste

2/3 cups baking soda
1/2 cup liquid soap or detergent
water
2 T vinegar

Mix everything except vinegar to form a paste. Add vinegar and stir. Keep paste in a tub at the kitchen sink for scouring pots and pans or the sink itself. Wipe off in the morning and use a drop or two of liquid detergent to remove any residue. Use steel wool if needed.

Stain Remover

Salt
juice of lemon or lime

Sprinkle surface with salt and squeeze lemon or lime juice over the area. Let sit and rub out. This can even remove rust if allowed to sit a few hours.

TIP: A wet pumice stone can remove tough stains from porcelain or enamel without scratching.

Carpet and Upholstery Stain Remover

1/4 cup vinegar
1/4 cup water

Mix and rub. Rinse with water. Works well on tough stains including grass, perspiration, rust, jam, coffee, orange juice, wine beer, ketchup, barbecue, chili, urine and pet stains.

Homemade Soft Scrub

1 2/3 cup baking soda
1/2 cup castile soap
1/2 cup water or strong herb tea
2 T. vinegar
8-10 drops essential oil

Mix together baking soda and soap, stir well, and slowly add water and essential oil, add vinegar last. Pour into flip top bottle and shake well before use.

Bathroom Deodorizer

1 lb box baking soda
10-20 drops essential oil

Mix oil in baking soda. Place open box under sink or near toilet. Add more essential oil as needed. Replace baking soda every 3 months. Use the old baking soda in cleaning recipes.

Scouring Powder

1 cup baking soda
1/4 cup vinegar

Mix in small bowl and rub on surface with damp sponge. Let stand a few minutes. Rinse well.

Silver

Silver Jewelry

Use plain white toothpaste (not gel)

Scrub on with a toothbrush. Rinse with soapy water.

Silverware

Soak overnight in a pan with equal parts milk and vinegar. Then rinse in soap and hot water and polish dry.

Laundry Care

Add 1/2 cup borax or washing soda to the wash cycle to boost cleaning for heavily soiled clothes.

AND

Add 1-2 cups of vinegar to rinse cycle to deodorize and soften fabrics.

STARCH

1 T cornstarch, 1 pint cold water.

Place in spray bottle and shake to dissolve cornstarch.

Wood Furniture Polish

3/4 cup oil (olive or jojoba)
1/4 cup vinegar or lemon juice

Combine in a glass jar. Dab a soft rag and wipe onto wood surface. Use the clean side of the rag to buff. Cover the jar and store for indefinite use.

Toilet Cleaner

Add 1 cup of white vinegar to the bowl and then a handful of baking soda. Let it bubble for 10-15 minutes and then scrub normally. That night add 2 1000mg vitamin C tablets into the bowl. In the morning scrub it one more time for a nice shine.

OR

1/4 cup borax

Sprinkle on a wet bowl brush, scour and rinse. Clean bowl thoroughly and often.

Mineral Deposits/ Shower Head

Boil your shower head for 15 minutes in a solution of 1/2 cup white vinegar and 1 qt. water. If the shower head is plastic, soak in equal parts of white vinegar and water for one hour. For faucets, soak a cloth in hot white vinegar and lay it around the area. Let it sit for one hour and then wipe off.

Carpet and Upholstery Stain Remover

1/4 cup liquid detergent
1/4 cup glycerin
1 1/2 cups water

Mix and pour into a squirt bottle. Use sparingly and rub on stain.

Wood Furniture Cleaner

3/4 cup olive oil OR 1/4 cup olive oil
1/4 cup vinegar 1/8 cup lemon juice

Mix ingredients. Using a soft cloth, rub into wood.

Laundry Bleach

Hydrogen peroxide (3%): *Spot clean. Let dry. Repeat if necessary*

OR

Presoak in mixture of 1/2 cup borax in 2 gallons of hot water

OR

1/4 cup white vinegar to wash cycle to help prevent graying.

Chrome and Pewter

Chrome
3 teas. baking soda
Water

Mix the baking soda and water to make paste. Apply with sponge. Rinse.

Pewter

Rub with a cabbage leaf to shine. Do not eat or compost the cabbage leaf after use; throw it away.

Drain Cleaner

1/2 cup baking soda
1/2 cup vinegar

Pour baking soda down drain followed by vinegar. Let it bubble for 15 min. then pour down a teakettle full of boiling water.

Brass and Copper Cleaner

flour (enough to make a paste)
1/2 teas. salt
1/2 cup vinegar

Mix ingredients to form a paste. Rub onto the brass and let sit for 30 min (or longer for heavy tarnish). Rinse with water and dry with a cloth dampened with a little vegetable oil.

Diaper, Garbage, or Compost pail Deodorizer

1 cup baking soda
1 tsp. tea tree oil and/or
other essential oil

Mix and work out all lumps with a fork. Sprinkle on bottom of pail after liner is removed. Periodically rinse pail with vinegar and water and dry in the sun.

General Stain Remover

1/4 cup liquid detergent
1/4 cup glycerin
1 1/2 cups water

Mix and pour into a squirt bottle. Use sparingly.

OR

Equal Parts vinegar and water

Mix and use to remove tough stains including grass, perspiration, rust, jam, coffee, orange juice, wine, beer, ketchup, barbecue sauce, chili, urine and pet stains.

Carpet Deodorizer

Sprinkle baking soda on carpet and let sit overnight. Then vacuum.

OR

Mix 1 cup Borax with 2 cup cornmeal. Sprinkle over carpet, let sit for an hour and then vacuum.

All Purpose Floor Cleaner

2 T liquid soap or detergent
1 gal. hot water

Mix, mop, and wipe clean.

TIP: To remove scuff marks, sprinkle with baking soda and spray with equal parts vinegar and water. Wipe clean.

Floor Wax

1 part lemon juice
2 parts food grade linseed oil

Apply with rag. Let rest until floor is dry. Buff completely smooth

OR

6 T beeswax,
3 cups food-grade linseed oil

Put ingredients in the top of a double boiler (over water) and beat slowly until wax is melted. Stir and pour into a heat resistant container. Apply.

Floor Polish

Wood:
3/4 cup olive oil
1/4 cup vinegar
10 drops essential oil (optional)
Mix and apply. Wipe clean.

Linoleum:

Add a small amount of skim milk to the rinse water. This will shine the floor. (No, it doesn't smell)

Wood Furniture Cleaner

1/8 cup linseed oil
1/8 cup vinegar
1/4 cup lemon juice

Mix ingredients. Using a soft cloth, rub into wood.