

Homemade Cleaners

Simple, Environmentally-Friendly Recipes

Clean the Safe, Nontoxic Way for Just Pennies



These recipes for natural cleaning formulas are safe and nontoxic. Most of the ingredients are in your kitchen now or can be easily found in a supermarket, natural food store, or pharmacy.

BAKING SODA (sodium bicarbonate): Cleans, deodorizes, removes stains and softens fabrics

BORAX (sodium borate): Natural mineral that kills mold and bacteria. An alternative to bleach, it deodorizes, removes stains and boosts the cleaning power of soap.

CASTILE AND VEGETABLE OIL BASED SOAPS: Cleans everything.

CORNSTARCH: Starch clothes, absorbs oil and grease.

HERBS AND ESSENTIALS OILS: For disinfecting and fragrance

LEMON JUICE: Cuts grease, removes perspiration and other stains from clothing. Bleach alternative.

SALT (sodium chloride): An abrasive.

VINEGAR (acetic acid): Cuts grease, removes stains and is an excellent water softener.

WASHING SODA (sodium carbonate): Cleans clothes, softens water, cuts grease and disinfects. Increases the cleaning power of soap.

Label all of your ingredients and keep them out of the reach of children. While most of these all natural cleaners are not poisonous, some can be harmful or even fatal if swallowed by children or pets. See specific safety precautions on the package

DISCLAIMER: The products created in this workshop have not been tested by Indiana Household Hazardous Waste Task Force, Inc. nor does it make any claim as to their ability to work in any given cleaning situation. These recipes have been obtained from third parties who also make no claim as to the above. Always test products in an inconspicuous area first if concerns over potential damage exist. These products are made from items obtained at most grocery and/or natural foods stores. Individual results may vary. Please consult manufacturers' specifications if questions arise concerning the use of these products on household items and surfaces.

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Simple, Environmentally-Friendly Recipes...page 2



1. Dishwasher Soap

In a container with a firmly fitting lid mix:

1 c. borax

1 c. baking soda

1/4 c. salt

1/4 c. dry lemonade mix (citric acid)

Place 1 to 2 T. in soap cup and fill rinse cup with white vinegar.

2. Carpet Freshener

4 c. baking soda or cornstarch

35 drops Eucalyptus oil

30 drops Lavender oil

25 drops Rosewood oil or any combination of your favorite essential oils.

Measure 4 cups of baking soda into a bowl, add essential oils. Break up any clumps that form, stir until well mixed. Sprinkle powder liberally from a shaker type can or jar over carpet and let mixture remain for an hour before vacuuming. Wait at least 15 minutes or overnight if odor is strong.

5. Furniture Polish

1/8 c. linseed oil

1/8 c. white vinegar

1/4 c. lemon juice

Mix. Use soft cloth and Rub into wood.



3. Sink Scrub



1/2 c. baking soda

1-1/2 t. ground cinnamon

2 drops cedar wood essential oil

Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Mix until well blended. Store in an air-tight container such a re-used parmesan cheese shaker. Sprinkle on sink or tub and scrub. Rinse well.

NOTE: This recipe is open to experimentation with essential oils and herbs, such as using dried sage and rosemary essential oil.

4. All Purpose Cleaner

In a 15 oz. spray bottle combine:

2 T. white vinegar

1 t. borax

Hot water to almost fill bottle

Add 2 T. castile soap

5 to 7 drops essential oil.

Shake to mix.

Label bottle listing contents.

Glass Cleaner

Club Soda in spray bottle
2 lint-free cloths: one for wet-wipe and one for the dry-wipe. Club soda doesn't dry as quickly as commercial cleaners but when it does it will be sparkling clean. Sodium citrate is the magic ingredient. Add a few drops of blue food coloring if you like. Label it.



6. Mildew & Germ Killer

1 spray bottle (16 oz.)

2 c. water

1/4 t. (25 drops) tea tree oil

1/4 t. (25 drops) lavender oil

Shake gently before each use.

Spray on surfaces and let dry--do not wipe dry. Use this in the kitchen and bathroom or anywhere you want to kill germs.

NOTE: Avoid disinfectants containing cresol, phenol, ethanol, kerosene, formaldehyde, ammonia, chlorine bleach, sodium hydroxide and phosphoric acid.

7. Floor Cleaner

1/2 gallon vinegar

1/8 c. castile soap

1 tsp. essential oil

Mix together in the vinegar bottle. Make sure to mark the bottle as floor cleaner so it doesn't get mistaken for vinegar. Shake well before each use. The ingredients not dissolving in the vinegar is normal. Use 1 to 2 cups in a bucket of warm/hot water to wash floor.



Toilet Bowl Cleaner

1 c. borax

1/4 c. white vinegar

3 drops lemon or lavender oil

Pour all ingredients into toilet bowl. Leave for a while or even overnight. Scrub with toilet brush and flush.