

BASIC INGREDIENTS

WHITE VINEGAR: Dissolves grease, dissolves mineral accumulation

BAKING SODA: Deodorizes, mild abrasive

WASHING SODA: Cuts grease, removes stains, softens water

BORAX: Disinfects, deodorizes

AMMONIA: Streak-free cleanser, antiseptic

BASIC RECIPES

ALL-PURPOSE CLEANER

Mix one gallon hot water with 1/4 cup of white vinegar. Another choice is to mix one tea-spoon borax into one quart of hot water. Add a squeeze of lemon juice or a splash of vinegar to cut grease. Rinse with water.

TOILET BOWL CLEANER

Pour 1 cup vinegar into the bowl, then toss in a handful of baking soda. When it is done foaming, scrub and rinse with water.

DISINFECTANT

Mix 1/2 cup borax and 1/4 cup vinegar in two gallons of very hot water.

For a stronger disinfectant, add more borax.

SCOURING POWDER

Baking soda on a damp sponge and scrub.

Household cleaning is an ancient chore and until recently, people tidied up without fancy chemicals. Simpler times called for simpler cleaners that still work today.

Most jobs can be accomplished with five simple ingredients mixed with water; white vinegar, baking soda, washing soda, borax, and ammonia. Handle these ingredients carefully, especially ammonia since it may irritate the eyes, nose and lungs. Wear gloves and eye protection when mixing and working with ammonia in these recipes and clearly label contents of the solutions you mix together.

The remedies contained within this brochure were drawn from a number of sources. Although they are usually less hazardous than popular products, they should still be used with caution. Please note: that their effectiveness has not been tested by formal researchers or consumer test groups. When trying a new recipe, first test it on a small, inconspicuous area to be sure you will get the results you want.

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RECIPES FOR A LESS HAZARDOUS HOME



OUTAGAMIE COUNTY RECYCLING



RecycleMoreOutagamie.org

Recycle More...Landfill less

RecycleMoreOutagamie.org

ANT CONTROL

Ants will avoid lines of powder and sharp crystals. Sprinkle barriers of talcum powder, chalk, bone meal, cayenne pepper or boric acid across their trails. Industrial grade boric acid crystals are especially effective as they have little odor. Keep boric acid away from children and pets.

BATHROOM CLEANER

Use baking soda to scrub surfaces clean and wipe surfaces with a solution of 1/4 cup vinegar in a gallon of water.

BLOOD / CHOCOLATE STAINS

Blot the stain with club soda using a clean paper towel.

COPPER CLEANER

Dip the copper in warm vinegar, then sprinkle salt on the piece and scrub with a soft cloth. Rinse well with water.

DRAIN CLEANER

As a preventative or if drain becomes clogged, pour in 1/4 cup baking soda, followed by 1/2 cup vinegar. Close drain until fizzing stops then flush with hot water.

FLOOR CLEANER

A mixture of three teaspoons each of borax and liquid dish soap in two quarts of hot water works well on most flooring.

GREASE/OIL SPOTS

To remove spots from garage floors/driveways, sprinkle spot with dry cement or fresh cat litter. Let stand for a few hours, then sweep it up.

LAUNDRY PRE-SOAK

To remove tough stains: soak the spot in a mixture of 1/4 cup borax in two cups of cold water prior to washing.

To remove grease stains: rub corn meal and water into stain then rinse stain with lemon juice before washing.

OVEN CLEANER

Dampen the spill and sprinkle salt on it while oven is still warm. Scrape the spill away when cooled. Greasy spots can be removed with a vinegar-soaked rag. Really tough spots can be removed by dampening the area with water and lightly scrubbing with baking soda and steel wool pads.

PERSPIRATION STAINS

A weak water solution of white vinegar, lemon juice or aspirin can be used as a pre-soak to remove stains or soak the clothes in a solution of cornmeal and water.

PET STAINS

Try a mixture of 1/4 cup vinegar in 1/4 cup liquid soap. Rub in the mixture, blot the stain, then rinse with water.

RUST REMOVER

Vinegar's weak acid works well on rust stains. Warmed vinegar coupled with some scrubbing will remove rust from dishes, sinks, and your teapot.

SILVER CLEANING

Baking soda and buttermilk makes a good silver soaking solution. Also try boiling silver for two to three minutes in a mixture of one cup water, one teaspoon baking soda, one teaspoon salt and a piece of aluminum foil. Rinse pieces well with water and dry with a soft cloth.

WATER SPOTTED CHROME

Fill a spray bottle with vinegar. Spray on chrome & wipe with soft cloth.

WINDOW CLEANER

A mix of one quart water, a few drops dishwashing detergent and two tablespoons of ammonia.