

# CLEANING



ON A

# SHOESTRING

Cleaning your home with commercial products can be very expensive. These products have been premixed, perfumed and packaged...and costs money. Create your own home-care products and save money. Our home-care recipes contain common, inexpensive household items.

- Ammonia
- Baking soda
- Vinegar
- Laundry soap
- Liquid dish detergent
- Chlorine bleach



## Ammonia

Ammonia is a strong cleaner and should be used in a well ventilated area. Use it to wash windows, clean ovens, clean bathrooms, remove wax from floors.

## Baking Soda

Baking soda is a mild cleaner and keeps the house smelling fresh. It may be used to clean refrigerators, remove stains, eliminate odors, and scrub without scratching.

## Vinegar

Vinegar is a good basic cleaner that leaves the house shiny. It may be used to clean glass, shine chrome, remove mild rust stains, remove soap film, and remove stains.

## Laundry Soap

Laundry soap is available in either liquid or powder form. It is used to clean clothes by hand or in the washing machine, make a mild cleaning solution, and remove heavy soil and grease from walls, floors, and fixtures.

## Liquid Dish Detergent

Liquid dish detergent is made to clean dishes. It removes food particles and grease. It can also be used to hand-wash delicate clothing, do small household cleaning jobs: countertops, walls, floors, appliances, and fixtures.

## Chlorine Bleach

Chlorine bleach will help kill germs while cleaning. It may be used to clean and deodorize bathrooms, clean and deodorize kitchens, remove stains, disinfect garbage and diaper pails, and kill mildew.

### For Safety Sake...

1. Never mix chlorine bleach, or any cleaner containing chlorine, with ammonia or with a cleaner containing ammonia. This produces dangerous fumes.
2. Most household cleaners are very poisonous. Be careful when storing these products. Be sure that children cannot reach them. Store in a locked cabinet.
3. When mixing your own homemade cleaners, remember that measuring utensils used for cleaners should not be used for food.
4. Always store your homemade cleaning solutions in tightly closed containers, labeled correctly, and out of children's reach.

*Never mix  
chlorine bleach  
or any cleaner  
containing  
chlorine with  
ammonia!!!*

# Recipes For Making Cleaning Products



## Carpet Freshener

- ¾ cup baking soda
- 2 tablespoons corn starch
- ¼ cup perfumed talcum powder

Combine ingredients. Sprinkle on dry carpet, let stand 5 to 15 minutes, and then vacuum.

## General Household Cleaner



- 2 tablespoons ammonia
- 2 tablespoons liquid dish detergent
- 1 quart water

Mix and use for general household cleaning.

## Laundry Spot Remover

- 1 cup laundry soap (generic brand works)
- 1 cup ammonia
- 1 cup water



Mix ingredients together. Store in a spray bottle and label. Works well for grease, dirt, and perspiration stains. Caution: do not use chlorine bleach in your wash water if you use ammonia.

## Window Cleaner

- ¼ cup ammonia or ½ cup vinegar
- 2 quarts water



Mix ingredients together. Store in a spray bottle and label. Good for windows, mirrors, and glass over pictures.

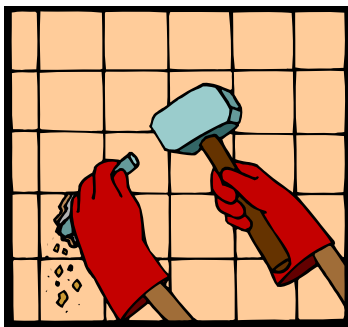
# Recipes for Making Cleaning Products

## Wall Cleaner

¼ cup ammonia  
1 gallon warm water



Combine these ingredients. Use the two-bucket method: one bucket of wash water and one bucket of rinse water to reduce the amount of cleaner used. Change rinse water often.



## Grout Cleaner

(Between ceramic tile)

Chlorine bleach  
Water

Scrub the grout first with hot suds. Mix the water and chlorine bleach and apply the diluted solution to the grout. Repeat the procedure, keeping tile wet 5 minutes.

## What will vinegar clean?



**In the kitchen** save money by using the cheapest dish soap. Add a few drops of vinegar to the dishwasher. Vinegar cuts the grease and leaves dishes sparkling clean.

**To perk up your coffee pot**, simply fill the inside with a solution of half white vinegar and half water. Run through a brew cycle. Rinse thoroughly with water when finished.

**To remove tarnish from copper or brass**, mix a solution of equal parts salt, vinegar, and flour. Apply the paste with a damp sponge and rub on the item until it's shiny, rinse and gently dry.

**In the bathroom**, to remove soap buildup from the shower curtain, use vinegar full strength. Rinse clean.

**For stains**, if your pet "does its thing" on the rug, undo the damage by sponging the spot with  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup vinegar diluted with 1 quart warm water. Let stand for a few minutes to dissolve stain. Wipe clean. Repeat if necessary (A spot test is suggested on the fabric or rug to be sure that the color will not be faded or removed.)



## What will baking soda clean?

**In the kitchen**, mix a solution by dissolving two tablespoons of baking soda in 1 quart of warm water. Use it to clean inside and outside of the refrigerator, small appliances, countertops and the microwave.

**Swish solution in plastic food containers, lunch boxes, thermos and baby bottles.** Rinse with clear water. To remove lingering odors in plastic, soak overnight in a baking soda solution.

**Make a paste** of baking soda to scour the sink without scratching the surface. This paste will also remove coffee and tea stains from cups

**Eliminate odors in the refrigerator** by placing an open box of soda in the back of the refrigerator. Change every three months. Put a second box in the freezer.



**When disposing of old boxes of baking soda**, pour the contents of the old boxes down drains to help keep them fresh smelling. Sprinkle burned pots with baking soda, add a few cups of water, simmer on stove for a while, then let stand for a few hours. You can usually lift the burned food right out of the pan.

**In the bathroom**, sprinkle baking soda on a damp cloth and gently scour to clean and deodorize without scratching.

For clean smelling laundry, add ½ cup of baking soda to rinse cycle.



## Make your own Moth Balls



### Spiced Moth Balls

½ cup whole cloves  
3 to 4 broken sticks of cinnamon  
½ cup whole peppercorns

Mix spices together. Wrap 2 tablespoons of spice in a cheesecloth or muslin. Be sure to keep spices from touching the fabric as oils from spices can stain.

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