

Kitchen

- For **more effective dishwashing**, add a few tablespoons of vinegar along with the dishwashing detergent when washing dishes. The vinegar cuts the grease and leaves dishes sparkling.
- To **clean up spills in your oven**, sprinkle the spills immediately with salt. When the oven has cooled, brush away the burnt-on food with a damp sponge.
- To **disinfect smelly sponges**, wash sponge thoroughly, then microwave it while it is wet, for a short period. When you see steam from the sponge, the bacteria in the sponge will be dead. Remove carefully it will be hot! Wash the sponge thoroughly before use.
- To **whiten an old stained sink**, pour a half cup of salt in it and then scrub it with a lemon. Let it stand for a few minutes and rinse.
- To **remove skid marks on linoleum** rub the spot with toothpaste before washing the floor.
- To keep your **plastic containers** from **getting stained** from tomato-based foods, rub the inside with vegetable oil before placing the food in the container.
- **Odor** producing mold and bacteria in **garbage cans**: sprinkle 1/2 cup Borax in the bottom of the garbage can.
- **Cleaning coffee maker**: Pour straight vinegar into it as if you are making the coffee, no filter is need. Turn coffee maker on as if you were making a pot of coffee. Repeat this with a new batch of vinegar until it runs clear of calcium deposits.
- **Garbage Disposal**: If you've got a lemon that's a little past its prime, cut it in quarters and run it through your sink disposal to freshen your drain.

Bathroom

- **Shower curtains** can be renovated by being washed, on gentle cycle, with a pint of white vinegar.
- To **clean tubs and showers** use a product that contains phosphoric acid, there is no scrubbing involved.
- **Buildup on shower doors**: Wipe with lemon oil. Removes buildup and keeps doors protected longer from future buildup.
- **Removing mildew from shower or bath**: 3 parts bleach and 1 part water -- put in spray bottle. Spray on mildew areas and it will virtually disappear.
- **Clean the toilet bowls** while you're away by pouring in 1/4-cup bleach and leaving it until you return.
- Keep the **toilet bowl ring-free** by pouring a half-gallon of white vinegar in it once a month. Let it soak overnight before flushing.
- To **avoid clogging and odors**, pour one-cup baking soda down the bowl weekly.
- For immediate **air freshener in the bath**, place a fabric softener sheet in the wastepaper basket or add a dab of fragrance on a light bulb. When the light is on, the heat releases the aroma
- **Cleaning the Sink**. For light stains, rub with a fresh cut lemon. For dark stains (like rust) rub with a paste of borax and lemon juice.

Laundry

- To **remove perspiration stains** in clothing, soak in warm vinegar and water.
- Microwaves can be used to emergency disinfect clothes, such as a child's cap that another kid has put on, as long as they have absolutely NO metal in the zippers, buttons, rivets etc. ALWAYS place a cup of cold water next to the article to absorb the heat and microwave on high until the water is steaming.
- **Urine Stains**: For washable fabrics that can be bleached... pre-soak them in cold water for at least thirty minutes. Launder these fabrics in hot water using detergent and chlorine bleach according to the directions on the bleach container. For washable, non-bleachable items, sponge the stained area with a solution of equal parts of household ammonia and water then launder the

item in warm water and detergent. Rinse it well. For non-washable items, sponge just the stained area with clear water to which a few drops of ammonia have been added. Then, sponge with clear water only.

Misc.

- Use crumpled up black and white newspaper dipped in vinegar to **wash windows**. Dip paper in vinegar and wipe the glass until almost dry, then shine with dry newspaper or cloth.
- **Children's stickers can be removed** from wood by applying white vinegar to the sticker, letting it soak and then scraping off.
- **Remove spilled nail polish from wood** furniture: Don't wipe it up! The solvents in nail polish soften most finishes, and wiping may take off the finish. Instead, let the polish dry completely; then gently scrape it off with a credit card. Wax the surface, using superfine steel wool.
- Use cooking or salad oil for **lubricating non-essential mechanical things** like hinges, tools etc. A light coat of oil will keep tools from rusting and you don't need to buy expensive and toxic chemicals like WD-40 etc.
- Don't buy special cleaners to get out **baby formula stains**, use a little isopropyl alcohol on the stain, then a regular stain remover. Works like a charm.
- **Cleaning your carpet:** Preparing for carpet cleaning? First sweep your carpet with a broom; this loosens up all the ground in dirt. Then vacuum. After that you might notice a big difference in the way your carpet looks. For wiping out stains, you can use a solution of 2 parts water one part ammonia in a spray bottle. Spray stain and wipe. For a dry cleaner use a mixture of 2 cups cornmeal and 1 cup borax. Sprinkle on carpet and let sit for one hour then vacuum. To remove pet odors, sprinkle carpet with baking soda and let sit for one hour, and then vacuum.
- **Home oil spills:** Paint thinner is best for this type of spill. Pour on spill and it will dissolve oil.