

Spring Cleaning Using Household Items

Spring is a wonderful time to spruce things up and refresh your house! And you can do it with household products you have on hand!

Lemons

- Use lemon juice as a disinfectant.
- To clean up those stained plastic and wooden cutting boards, squeeze the juice of half a lemon onto the board. Let it sit for 20 minutes. Rinse with water.
- To remove tea stains on cloth, combine lemon juice with an equal amount of water. Dip a Q-tip in the lemon juice mixture, and dab at the stain. Or you can put the mixture into an eye dropper and drip onto the stain. Thoroughly flush with cool water.
- Combine lemon juice with baking soda and use in place of abrasive cleaners.
- Freshen your garbage disposal by running lemons, oranges, or tangerines or their peelings through your disposal.

Newspapers

- To deodorize and dry out shoes, stuff them with newspaper overnight. Note: to keep shoes from smelling, don't wear the same shoes two days in a row.
- To freshen food containers or thermoses, stuff with newspapers and let them sit overnight.
- Some people swear by newspapers to clean windows. I don't like ending up with black hands!

Dryer Sheets

- Dust your blinds by wiping a dryer sheet up and down over closed blinds.
- Collect pet hair by rubbing a dryer sheet over furniture or the floor where the hair has accumulated.
- By placing a dryer sheet between pages of stored books, it prevents that musty smell.
- Use a dryer sheet to collect sawdust after a woodworking project.
- Place a dryer sheet in smelly shoes, gym bags, or suitcases to freshen them.

Vinegar

- To remove coffee or tea stains from the inside of a cup, measure two tablespoons of vinegar into the cup and swish it around. Use a cloth, if necessary, to reach all the stains. Wash with soap.
- To get rid of salt stains on boots or shoes, dip a cloth into vinegar. Those white stains will wipe right off!
- To deodorize a garbage disposal, fill ice trays with vinegar. Freeze. Run the vinegar ice cubes through the disposal, followed by a blast of cold water.
- To clean a teakettle, boil a mixture of water and vinegar in the kettle. Wipe away any residue.
- To freshen a coffeemaker, fill the water reservoir with a mixture of vinegar and water. "Brew" this mixture, followed by several cycles of plain water.
- To clean your dishwasher, run an empty dishwasher through a cycle with a cup of vinegar. Do this once a month to reduce soap buildup on the inner mechanisms and glassware.

Baking Soda

- To eliminate crayon, pencil, ink, and furniture scuffs from painted surfaces, sprinkle a little baking soda on a damp cloth, rub clean, and rinse.
- Sprinkle baking soda on minor oil and grease spills on a garage floor or driveway, and scrub with a wet brush.
- To tackle tough stains on enameled cast iron, scrub with a soft nylon brush and a thick paste of baking soda and water.
- To remove stains from stainless steel, dissolve 4 tablespoons of baking soda in 1 quart of water and clean with a soft cloth. Dry with a clean cloth.
- Sprinkle baking soda on casseroles or roasting pans with baked-on foods or stains. Let it work for five minutes, followed by a light scrub and rinse.

Salt

- Mix ½ cup salt and a quart of hot water. Pour the salt water mixture down your drain to give it a good cleaning.
- Salt can be poured into the cracks in your driveway and sidewalk to remove weeds.

Foil – use crumpled up foil to clean off your grill grate.

Coffee Filters - Use coffee filters to clean windows or glass if you run out of paper towels. They don't leave any lint or residue. (And for a vice versa – if you run out of coffee filters, you can use paper towels in your coffee maker!)

Olive Oil – Rub olive oil on stainless steel or chrome to shine them. Ammonia and similar products can dull or corrode them.