

Why Homemade?



Greener

There's a reason you can't dispose of commercial cleaners through normal means: they poison our water and toxify our planet. If that weren't bad enough, a surprising number of cleaning agents are petroleum-based.

Cheaper

Low-cost, everyday ingredients can make excellent cleaners. Compared to commercial products, you can create your own cleaning formulas for pennies on the dollar.

Healthier

Are you sure those commercial cleaning products don't do anything more than make you wrinkle your nose? Why risk using carcinogens and toxins in your home, when homemade is so easy?

The Key Ingredients

Borax

Cleans, deodorizes, and disinfects. Borax is not considered an acute toxin, but it's not safe to ingest. Keep away from pets and children. Found on the laundry aisle of most grocery stores.

Hydrogen Peroxide

An oxygen-based sanitizing and cleaning product. Like any chemical, you may wish to test it on a sample first, and obviously, keep away kids and pets.

Laundry Soap

Often used to pre-treat stains, it's found on the laundry aisle of your local grocery store. You can use bar laundry soap, like Fels Naptha, or soap flakes. Don't use as a body soap.

Oxygen Bleach

A formulation of bleach typically made by treating Washing Soda or Borax with Hydrogen Peroxide. While non-toxic and environmentally friendly, still use care when handling.

Vinegar

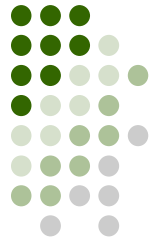
Cleans, disinfects, and helps breaks down laundry detergent. It works as a fabric softener, and can help clean your washing machine.

Washing Soda

In the same family as Baking Soda, Washing Soda is much more caustic. It also cuts through grease and helps remove stains. It doesn't give off fumes, but wear gloves! Found on the laundry aisle of most grocery stores.

CLEAN

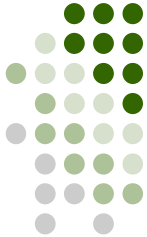
Green
Cheap
Healthy



Laundry



Safety First



Smart tips to keep you and your family safe:

Read product labels and warnings. They know what they're talking about.

Always label homemade products. You wouldn't want to mistake a container of hydrogen peroxide for vinegar to use in your salad!

If you have children or pets, take extra care. Use child-resistant containers, and store all cleaning products out of reach of children and pets and apart from food storage.

Don't use food containers for mixing or storing cleaning agents.

It's a good idea to test your cleaning formulas on a small sample first.

Always be extra careful when using toxic (like Borax) or caustic ingredients (like Washing Soda): Wear gloves and other appropriate protective clothing.



Recipes

Laundry

Detergent

Easy Dry Detergent

- 1 part Washing Soda
- 1 part Borax
- 2 parts Soap Flakes OR grated Laundry Soap

Mix ingredients well. Watch those knuckles if you're grating your own bar of Laundry Soap! You can play with the proportions to suit your needs. Be very careful when handling Washing Soda and Borax—wear gloves!

Use from 1 Tablespoon up to 1/2 cup per load, depending on load size, how soiled laundry is, and washing machine efficiency.



Fabric Softener

The Vinegar Solution

- 1/2 cup white distilled Vinegar

Easy. Just add vinegar to the rinse cycle. It serves as a fabric softener, so you don't have to use a toxic dryer sheet, and it will help keep your brights brighter.

As an added bonus, if you discover soap residue accumulating on your washing machine, run an empty load with one cup vinegar added.

In The Dryer

Avoid chemically-treated dryer sheets— they're surprisingly toxic.

Vinegar in the wash can soften fabrics and reduce static cling. For a pleasant scent in the dryer, add a few drops of an essential oil to a small cloth, and add to the dryer load.



Bleach Alternative

The Easy Solution

Add additional Borax or Washing Soda to the laundry load according to package directions.

The Hydrogen Peroxide Solution

- 1/2 to 1 cup 3% Hydrogen Peroxide

Pre-wash your white clothing with the Hydrogen Peroxide added.

For Tougher Needs

Substitute Oxygen Bleach for Chlorine Bleach