

Cleaning with Vinegar!

***A collection of old and new household uses for
white vinegar compiled by Cathi K at Sensible-
House-Cleaning-Solutions.com***

KITCHEN	4
Cookware & Kitchenware	4
Pots and Pans.....	4
Can Openers.....	4
Kitchen Odors	4
Cooking Odors	4
Dishcloths & Sponges	4
Large Kitchen Appliances	4
Fridges.....	4
Fans.....	5
Oven/Grills	5
Dishwashers.....	5
Small Kitchen Appliances	5
Microwaves	5
Coffee Makers.....	5
Kettles.....	6
Food Service & Storage Containers	6
Glasses.....	6
China	6
Lunch and Storage Containers.....	6
Kitchen Work Surfaces	6
Countertops.....	6
Sinks	6
BATHROOMS	7
Toilets	7
Sinks, Tubs & Showers	7
Shower Curtains & Doors	7
Shower Heads	7
Fiberglass Tubs	8
Unclogging Drains	8
Sinks & Countertops.....	8
Tile & Grout.....	8
Bathroom Odors	8
Bathroom Sponge or Loofah.....	9
LAUNDRY	9
Pre-Wash	9
Deodorizer.....	9
Stain Removal.....	9
In the Wash Cycle	9
Fabric Softener	9
Fabric Conditioner	9
In the Rinse Cycle	9
Washing Machine Maintenance	10
Ironing	10

FLOORS	10
Linoleum	10
Laminate and Hard Wood Floors	10
WINDOWS AND WINDOW COVERINGS	11
Mini Blinds	11
Windows	11
WALLS AND WALL COVERINGS.....	11
GENERAL PURPOSE CLEANSERS	11
Scouring Cleansers.....	11
Disinfecting Surfaces.....	12
'White Vinegar and 3% Peroxide One-Two Punch'	12
Air Freshener	12
MISC HOUSEHOLD CLEANING.....	12
Aluminum Maintenance.....	12
Glue Spots	12
Leather	13
Insect Control.....	13
Metal Cleaning	13
Price Tags & Decals	13
Fireplaces	14
Glass Fireplace Doors.....	14
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	14
Interior	14
Exterior	14

KITCHEN

Cookware & Kitchenware

Pots and Pans

1/4 cup of baking soda in the bottom of the pan, then fill with warm water. Boil on the stove until the scorched parts loosen and float to the top.

You can do that with vinegar and baking soda too, just use less liquid so that it doesn't bubble over from the chemical reaction between the vinegar and baking soda.

(if, for whatever reason, those two solutions don't work – then you can put a dishwasher detergent puck into the pot and allow to boil for 10 minutes or so. It's not a vinegar solution – but I would hate to see you with a ruined pot)

Add 1/4 cup of vinegar to your rinsing water. It gets any remaining oil off surfaces (especially of plastics), and gives glass and metal a nice shine!

Remove dark stains on an aluminum pot by boiling a mixture of 1 cup white vinegar and 1 cup hot water for 10 minutes or so, and allow to sit until completely cooled.

Can Openers

Clean the wheel of a can opener using white vinegar and an old toothbrush.

Kitchen Odors

Cooking Odors

Boil some vinegar for 10 minutes or so (particularly effective for fried-food odors)

Dishcloths & Sponges

Renew sponges and dishrags by placing them in just enough water to cover them. Then add 1/4 cup white vinegar. Let them soak overnight.

Large Kitchen Appliances

Fridges

Remove the smell of spoiled food from a refrigerator by first rinsing the area with soap and water. Spray surfaces with full-strength white vinegar and wipe them down with a damp cloth or sponge. Fill some containers with baking soda and place inside. Close the door and leave for a few days.

Clean the shelves and walls of the refrigerator with a half-and-half solution of water and white vinegar.

Cut the grime on the top of the refrigerator with a paper towel or cloth and full-strength white vinegar.

Fans

Wipe grease off exhaust fan grids, the inside of your oven, or anywhere grease gathers with a sponge soaked in white vinegar.

Oven/Grills

To make cleaning the grill easier, spray a solution of half water and half white vinegar on the cooking surface.

Avoid the bad smell when you heat up a newly cleaned oven by using a sponge soaked in diluted white vinegar for the final rinse.

To clean a grease splattered oven door window, saturate it with full-strength white vinegar. Keep the door open for 10 to 15 minutes before wiping with a sponge.

Dishwashers

Remove soap buildup and odors from the dishwasher by pouring a cup of white vinegar inside the empty machine and running it through a whole cycle. Do monthly.

Small Kitchen Appliances

Microwaves

Clean the microwave by mixing 1/2 cup white vinegar and 1/2 cup water in a microwave-safe bowl. Bring it to a rolling boil inside the microwave. Baked-on food will be loosened, and odors will disappear. Wipe clean.

Coffee Makers

Fill the water reservoir with straight white vinegar and turn on the coffee maker. Let half of it run through and turn off the machine. Let it all sit for 1/2 an hour then turn it back on again. Follow up with two reservoirs full of cold water. (the first time I ever did this I skimmed on the water part - the result was curdled milk in my husband's coffee - yeah, not so nice!) That's it, done!

To clean the pot, scrub lightly with a little baking soda and white vinegar

For removable plastic parts, try hot water, dishwashing liquid and 1/4 cup of white vinegar. Let soak for about 30 minutes and rinse well.

Kettles

Get rid of hard water deposits in a kettle by adding 1/2 cup white vinegar to the water and letting it sit overnight. If more drastic action is needed, boil full-strength white vinegar in the kettle a few minutes, let cool and rinse with plain water.

Food Service & Storage Containers

Glasses

To prevent good glassware from getting etched by minerals, wash then spray with full-strength white vinegar. Give the glasses a hot water rinse before letting them dry or drying them with a towel.

For cloudy glassware, soak paper towels or a cloth in full-strength white vinegar and wrap around the inside and outside of the glass. Let sit awhile before rinsing clean.

China

Remove stains from coffee and teacups by scrubbing them gently with equal parts of salt (or baking soda) and white vinegar. Rinse clean.

Remove ugly film in narrow-necked glass jars, flower vases, and bottles by letting undiluted white vinegar sit in them for a few hours. Add a little rice or sand and shake vigorously to loosen stubborn stains. Repeat if necessary.

Lunch and Storage Containers

For stained and smelly plastic food containers, wipe them with a cloth dampened with white vinegar.

Remove odors from a lunch box by placing inside a slice of bread that has been soaked in white vinegar. Leave overnight.

Kitchen Work Surfaces

Countertops

Clean counter tops and make them smell sweet again with a cloth soaked in undiluted white vinegar.

Sinks

To shine chrome sink fixtures that have a lime buildup, use a paste made of 2 tablespoons salt and 1 teaspoon white vinegar.

Clean and deodorize a drain by pouring in 1 cup baking soda, then one cup hot white vinegar. Let this sit for 5 minutes or so, then run hot water down the drain.

Deodorize the garbage disposal by pouring in 1/2 cup baking soda and 1/2 cup hot white vinegar. Let sit for 5 minutes then run hot water down the disposal.

Deodorize and clean the garbage disposal with white vinegar ice cubes. Make them by freezing full-strength white vinegar in an ice cube tray. Run several cubes down the disposal while flushing with cold water.

BATHROOMS

Toilets

Pour a bucket of water into the toilet to force most of the water out. Pour 1 c of vinegar over the bowl interior, and then sprinkle 1 c of borax over the vinegar. Allow to soak for 2 hours or overnight and then brush and flush. Use gloves if you are going to contact the cleaners, as this may be irritating to your skin. Remember that not all homemade cleaning solutions are gentle.

Deodorize the toilet bowl by allowing 3 cups white vinegar to sit in it several hours or overnight. Scrub well with the toilet brush and flush.

Sinks, Tubs & Showers

Shower Curtains & Doors

Put your shower curtain and two or three old light-colored towels into the wash machine. Add your regular detergent and 1 c of vinegar and run through a regular wash cycle in warm water. Rehang curtain immediately.

Spray shower doors with full-strength white vinegar after you've squeegeed the glass, or before you step in and turn on the water. It will help release the hard water deposits so they don't remain on the glass.

Clean shower door tracks by filling them with white vinegar and letting it sit for a few hours. Pour hot water into the tracks and wash and scrub away the scum with a toothbrush.

Shower Heads

Put vinegar into a plastic bag and tie it around your shower head so that the whole thing is immersed. Let it soak overnight. In the morning, remove the bag and give the showerhead a scrub. If you see any loose mineral deposits, poke them away. Rinse, and the showerhead should run free.

Clean stainless steel sinks with either a baking soda and water, or a baking soda and vinegar paste. Don't mind the bubbling of the baking soda and vinegar mix - it is highly effective.

Fiberglass Tubs

Heat white vinegar until hot, but not hot enough to melt your spray bottle. Spray it heavily on the tub/shower. Wait 10-15 minutes, and then moisten a scrubbing-type sponge with more vinegar and scrub down the shower. Use more vinegar as needed. Rinse thoroughly and dry with a light-colored towel.

Unclogging Drains

Mix 1 cup of baking soda with 1 cup of salt. Add 1 cup of white vinegar, quickly stir, and pour down the drain. If you can let this 'cook' overnight, all the better. Otherwise, wait 15 minutes and rinse with hot water.

Sinks & Countertops

Rid a faucet of lime deposits by tying a plastic bag containing 1/2 to 1/3 cup of white vinegar around it and leaving it there for two or three hours. If mineral deposits don't wipe off, scrubbing with an old toothbrush should complete the job.

Shine colored porcelain sinks by scouring them with undiluted white vinegar.

Rinse away soapy film on countertops with a solution of white vinegar and water.

Tile & Grout

Clean grout by letting full-strength white vinegar sit on it for a few minutes and scrubbing it with an old toothbrush.

Mix up an inexpensive tile cleaner by adding 1/2 cup baking soda, 1 cup white vinegar, and 1 cup ammonia to a gallon of warm water.

Bathroom Odors

Freshen air in the bathroom by spraying into the air a solution of 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 tablespoon white vinegar, and 1 cup water.

Bathroom Sponge or Loofah

Soak a sponge or loofah overnight in a strong white vinegar and water solution to remove dirt and slime. Rinse several times with cold water and let air dry (in the sun if possible).

LAUNDRY

Pre-Wash

Deodorizer

Spray offending area in white vinegar and let soak for 15 - 30 minutes before laundering

Stain Removal

Get stained white socks and dingy dishcloths white again. Add 1 cup white vinegar to a large pot of water, bring it to a rolling boil and drop in the articles. Let soak overnight.

Some stains on clothing and linens can be soaked out using equal parts milk and white vinegar.

Before washing a mustard stain, dab with white vinegar.

Attack spaghetti, barbecue, or ketchup stains with a white vinegar and water solution.

Remove smoky odors from clothes by filling the bathtub with very hot water and 1 cup white vinegar. Hang the garments above the steaming water and shut the door so the steam can penetrate the fibers.

In the Wash Cycle

Fabric Softener

Prevent lint from clinging to clothes by adding 1/2 cup white vinegar to the wash cycle.

Fabric Conditioner

Eliminate manufacturing chemicals from new clothes by adding 1/2 cup white vinegar to the water.

In the Rinse Cycle

Get cleaner laundry! Add about 1/4 cup white vinegar to the last rinse. The acid in white vinegar is too mild to harm fabrics, yet strong enough to dissolve the alkalies in soaps and detergents. Besides removing soap, white vinegar prevents yellowing, acts as a fabric softener and static cling reducer, and attacks mold and mildew.

Bring out bright colors

Fluff up wool or acrylic sweaters (hand- or machine-washed) and rid them of soap smell

To remove soap residue that makes black clothes look dull

Washing Machine Maintenance

Remove soap scum and clean the hoses of your washing machine with white vinegar. Periodically run the machine with only a cup of white vinegar in it—nothing else added to the wash cycle.

Ironing

Remove scorch marks from an iron by rubbing it with a warmed-up solution of equal parts white vinegar and salt. If that doesn't work, use a cloth dampened with full-strength white vinegar.

Remove musky smells from cotton clothes by sprinkling them lightly with white vinegar and then pressing them.

Get water and salt stains off shoes and boots by wiping them down with a solution of equal parts white vinegar and water.

FLOORS

Linoleum

Do not use this recipe on waxed floors! Put the ingredients in a bucket in the following order: 1/4 c washing soda, 1 tablespoon liquid soap, 1/4 c vinegar and the gradually add 2 gallons of hot water. Use as you would any floor cleaning solution

Laminate and Hard Wood Floors

Using vinegar to clean hardwood floors: Add 1 cup of vinegar to a pail of hot water. Mop with only a minimal amount of water, and buff dry with a soft towel if desired. Too much water can damage the wood. A high quality microfiber mop will keep the water to a minimum, and clean thoroughly.

Note: Do not use a vinegar solution on tile or marble floors – as it will damage the floors over time.

WINDOWS AND WINDOW COVERINGS

Mini Blinds

Easily clean your mini blinds by wearing pair of white cotton gloves. Dip gloved fingers into a solution of equal parts white vinegar and warm tap water, and run your fingers across both sides of each blind.

Windows

Create your own window cleaning solution by combining 1/2 cup non-sudsy ammonia, 1 cup white vinegar, and 2 tablespoons cornstarch in a gallon of water.

Remove the wax residue left by commercial window cleaners with a solution of 2 cups water, 1 cup white vinegar and 1 teaspoon of liquid soap or detergent.

To remove paint from windows try using undiluted, hot white vinegar. Give the solution time to soften the paint before removing with a razor edge tool.

WALLS AND WALL COVERINGS

Get rid of mildew, dust, and stale odors by wiping down walls with undiluted white vinegar on a cloth or a sponge mop.

Clean woodwork and walls with a mixture of 1 cup white vinegar, 1 cup baking soda, 1/2 cup ammonia and 1 gallon warm water. Wipe on with a sponge or damp—not wet—towel.

Clean wood paneling with a solution of 1/4 cup olive oil, 1/2 cup white vinegar, and 2 cups warm water. Wipe on with a soft cloth.

Remove wallpaper easily by using a paint roller to wet the surface very thoroughly with a solution of equal parts white vinegar and hot water. Or spray on until saturated.

Get decals off walls or doors by letting undiluted white vinegar soak into them for several minutes before trying to peel them off. Repeat if necessary.

GENERAL PURPOSE CLEANSERS

Scouring Cleansers

#1 Combine 1/4 cup baking soda with 1 tablespoon liquid detergent. Add just enough white vinegar to give it a thick but creamy texture.

#2 Vinegar with salt and water (do not use on tiles - the acid from the vinegar will etch the grout over time)

#3 Approximately 1 cup of table salt, 2-4 tbsp white vinegar, 3-6 tbsp dish soap. It should make a thick, abrasive and gummy/stretchy paste.

This can be used to easily remove soap scum, on wet mucky/moldy window sills or any place that needs a good disinfect or scour.

Disinfecting Surfaces

Use on all clean hard surfaces - including cutting boards

'White Vinegar and 3% Peroxide One-Two Punch'

Some people swear by one or the other of these products, but for the best results, lab studies tell us that it's best to use both, one after the other.

This is because vinegar is an acid and hydrogen peroxide is an alkali. Each one will be most effective against different pathogens.

Spray your surface first with one, and then the other. Let each one 'work' for 5 minutes, and wipe away.

Keep them in separate bottles!

Air Freshener

Make your own spray freshener - put 1 teaspoon of baking soda and 1 tablespoon of white vinegar in a clean spray bottle. Once the fizzing stops, add 2 cups of warm water. Wait to make sure that there is no more foaming, and then put in the spray attachment. Shake before using.

MISC HOUSEHOLD CLEANING

Aluminum Maintenance

Wash aluminum in a weak solution of vinegar and water, and polish with a very mild abrasive.

Glue Spots

White glue or mucilage can often be thinned with a few drops of vinegar rather than trying to use water. Glue spots may also be dissolved this way. Blot with a clean absorbent cloth

Leather

To improve the appearance of a leather briefcase that has become shabby, apply a mixture of linseed oil and vinegar. In an old pan put 1 cup of linseed oil and bring to a boil. Remove from the heat and allow to cool completely. Add a cup of white vinegar and stir until combined. Pour into a jar or bottle with a lid. Using an absorbent cloth, rub a little on the leather (shake the bottle well to keep the oil and vinegar mixed). Polish with a soft lint-free cloth.

Insect Control

Discourage ants by spraying undiluted white vinegar outside doorways and windowsills, around appliances and wherever you find the pests coming in.

Get rid of fruit flies by setting out a small dish of undiluted white vinegar.

Eliminate anthills by pouring in white vinegar.

Kill slugs by spraying them with a mixture of 1 part water and 1 part white vinegar.

To catch moths use a mixture of 2 parts white vinegar and 1 part molasses. Place mixture in tin can and hang in a tree.

Metal Cleaning

To clean tarnished brass, copper, and pewter, use a paste with equal amounts of white vinegar and table salt.

Make a metal cleanser by adding enough white vinegar to 2 tablespoons of cream of tartar to make a paste. Rub it on and let it dry on the surface. Wash it off and dry with a soft cloth.

Polish brass and copper with a mixture of 2 tablespoons of ketchup and 1 tablespoon white vinegar. Rub it on with a clean cloth until dry and shiny.

Price Tags & Decals

To remove a label, decal, or price tag, cover with a cloth soaked in white vinegar. Leave the cloth on overnight and the label should slide off.

Fireplaces

Remove fireplace soot and grime with undiluted white vinegar. Use a brush to scrub and a towel to blot up the wetness and dirt.

Glass Fireplace Doors

Clean fireplace glass doors with a solution of 1 part white vinegar to 2 parts water. Spray or wipe on, then wipe clean with a dry cloth.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Interior

Remove the leftover odor after a rider has been carsick by leaving a bowl of white vinegar overnight on the floor.

Remove the hazy film that builds up on inside windows by spraying with white vinegar.

Remove dirt and stains from car carpeting with a mixture of half white vinegar and half water.

Give leather upholstery an extra shine by cleaning it with soapy water and rinsing with hot white vinegar.

Exterior

Keep car windows frost-free overnight in winter by coating them with a solution of 3 parts white vinegar to 1 part water.

Polish car chrome with full-strength white vinegar on a soft cloth.

Remove unwanted decals and bumper stickers by covering them with a cloth soaked in white vinegar, or by repeatedly spraying them with full-strength white vinegar. They should peel off in a couple of hours.

Rid the windshield wipers of road grime by wiping them with a white vinegar-soaked cloth.

Get rid of hard water stains on your car with a rinse made from 3 parts soft or distilled water to one part white vinegar.

Wipe vinyl upholstery with a mixture of equal parts white vinegar and water.

Remove winter road salt residue on car carpeting by spraying with a mixture of equal parts white vinegar and water, then blot with a soft towel.

Make your car extra shiny by adding a few drops of white vinegar to your bucket of rinse water.