

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

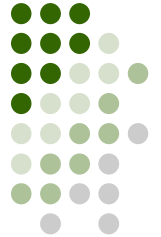
Cleans, disinfects, and helps break down laundry detergent. It works as a fabric softener, and can help clean your washing machine.

Washing Soda

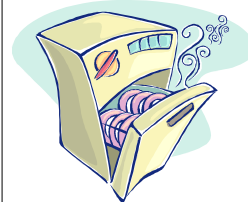
In the same family as Baking Soda, Washing Soda is much more caustic. It also cuts through grease and helps remove stains. It doesn't give off fumes, but wear gloves! Found on the laundry aisle of most grocery stores.

CLEAN

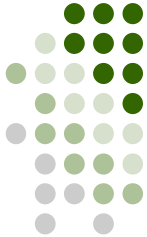
Green
Cheap
Healthy



Dishwashing



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

Dishwashing

Automatic Dishwasher Detergent

1 part Washing Soda
1 part Borax

Mix and add 1 to 2 Tablespoons to the detergent dispenser. That's it! How's that for simple?

You can substitute Baking Soda for the Washing Soda in the formula.

Depending on the mineral content of your water supply, this recipe may leave a white residue on your dishes. Don't give up—you have several options to try.

First, be sure you're using a rinse aid. Second, reduce the amount used and play with the ingredient proportions. Third, you can add 1 part powdered commercial detergent to the mixture.

Hand Dish Detergent

1 part Water
4 parts Castile Soap
Few drops essential oils (optional)

Mix the ingredients and shake well before using. Essential oils add a fresh scent, and some, like tea tree oil, will provide additional antiseptic properties.

Rinse Aid

Distilled white vinegar

That's it! Pour the vinegar into the rinse aid dispenser in your automatic dishwasher.

If the dispenser is designed for a gel, and the vinegar just runs out, you can simply pour a cup of vinegar into the bottom of the dishwasher. The vinegar helps neutralize hard water minerals.

And don't worry—it won't leave a taste or odor on the dishes!

