

# Homemade Cleaning Products

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*We clean to protect our health and prevent the spread of disease.*

## What is a Cleaning Product?

A cleaning product is a blend of specialty materials used to remove soils and stains from a surface and to restore the surface to its original condition. Cleaning plays an important role in our lives. We clean to protect our health and prevent the spread of disease as well as maintain the look and extend the life of our possessions.



## Why Make Cleaning Products at Home?

There can be many reasons why someone might want to make their own cleaning products, such as saving money, using less toxic and more environmentally-friendly products, and concerns about allergens and irritants.

## Ingredients in Many Homemade Cleaners

The basic ingredients in many homemade cleaners are:

- Vinegar
- Lemon juice
- Rubbing alcohol
- Washing soda (can be found near the laundry detergent in most stores)
- Mild dish detergent
- Borax (also near the laundry section)
- Liquid bleach
- Baking soda
- Ammonia
- Water

## Homemade Cleaning Recipes

### Vinyl Floor Cleaner

- 1 cup of white vinegar
- 1 gallon of warm water

### Furniture Polish

- 1 part vegetable oil and 1 part lemon juice. Apply, rub in and wipe clean.

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### Wood Floor Cleaner

- ½ cup of vinegar
- 1 gallon of water

Be careful not to let wood floors get too wet.

### Window Cleaners

- ½ cup white vinegar, 1 gallon water (2 tablespoons vinegar to 1 quart water)
- ½ cup ammonia, 1 gallon water (2 tablespoons to 1 quart water)
- 1 tablespoon ammonia, 1 tablespoon vinegar, 1 quart water
- 3 tablespoons denatured alcohol to 1 quart water

### All-Purpose Cleaner

- Mix ½ cup vinegar and ½ cup baking soda (or 2 teaspoons borax) into ½ gallon (2 liters) water. Store and keep. Use for removal of water deposit stains on shower stall panels, bathroom chrome fixtures, windows, bathroom mirrors, etc.
- 1 tablespoon ammonia, 1 tablespoon detergent, 2 cups water
- ½ cup ammonia, ⅓ cup vinegar, ¼ cup baking soda to 1 gallon warm water

### Laundry Detergent

- 1 bar (or 4.5 ounces) of shaved bar soap (a homemade laundry bar, Dr. Bronner's, Ivory®, ZOTE, or Fels-Naptha®)
- 1 cup of borax
- 1 cup of washing soda

Blend the mixture in a blender or food processor to create a powder that will dissolve easily even in cold water. Store in a sealed container with a small scoop. Use 1 tablespoon per load (or 2 to 3 tablespoons for large or heavily soiled loads).

### Dry Carpet Shampoo

- ½ cup cornstarch, 2 cups baking soda, 4 to 5 crumbled bay leaves, 1 tablespoon ground cloves

Mix and shake into carpet. Let sit for an hour. Vacuum up.

### Upholstery Spot Remover

- Club soda

### Prewash Stain Remover

- 1 cup sudsy ammonia, 1 cup Ivory® dish soap, 6 cups water

### Daily Shower Spray

- ⅓ cup rubbing alcohol, 1 cup water

Mix in a spray bottle and shake. Spray on. No rinsing required.

### Pet Accidents on Carpet

- 4 tablespoons vinegar
- 2 cups hydrogen peroxide
- 2 tablespoons liquid dish soap
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons baking soda

Mix in 1-quart bottle. Add water to complete the quart – about 2 cups. Spray on spot to neutralize (for odor control) and clean. Follow with plain water. Towel dry.

### Laundry Stain Removal

Create a mixture of ⅓ cup water, ⅓ cup liquid detergent, ⅓ cup ammonia.

To use, spray directly on stain and let soak before washing in the washing machine as normal.

2015

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FH15-247

