



Homemade Cleaning Recipes

These are the things that we use to clean our home, so I know that they work.

I've tried to go back to the original source when possible to get measurements for you. I'm not one to measure anything, which is probably why my Christmas cookies are always such a disaster.

Vinegar is plain, cheap white vinegar; dish soap is **always blue Dawn**.

They are in no particular order.

Hardwood Floor Cleaner

2 gallons of hot water (a bucket full)

1 cup of white vinegar (vinegar is a natural disinfectant)

Fruit & Vegetable Cleaner

Large bowl of cool water (I use my salad spinner so I can drain easily)

About 1/4 cup of vinegar

This is especially good for berries, because they go bad so quickly. The vinegar kills any bacteria on them, helping them stay fresh longer.

I never rinse mine; my husband does. The vinegar is not noticeable.

(I also never spin my berries because then I have raspberry mush. My husband does. I'm being professional here and not inserting emoji faces of how I feel about this.)

The Best Bathtub Cleaner Ever!

Borax

White vinegar

Dawn dish soap

Spray bottle

Sprinkle the borax liberally in the tub. (You can find this in the laundry section of the grocery store.)

A spray bottle typically holds about 2 cups, I'm guessing, so heat the vinegar in a glass measuring cup with a spout (or use whatever you have plus a funnel). Not too hot or you'll melt your spray bottle. About a minute should work.

Squirt a small amount of Dawn into the spray bottle.

Add the hot vinegar to the spray bottle and shake gently to dissolve the soap.

Spray the vinegar mixture over the borax so that it is wet enough to make a paste.

Let it sit for a minute or two. Really. We never wait for the cleaners to do their work, and then we work harder because of it.

Use a scrub brush or scrubbing sponge to clean the tub.

You may need to replenish your vinegar and borax, depending on the condition of the tub.

We have hard water where we live, and even with a whole house water softener, we still get hard water and soap scum buildup. This stuff works!

Window Cleaner (outside)

White vinegar (4 cups or 32 oz. for an average bucket - go to Costco and buy a couple of the big bottles)

Add the vinegar to a bucket, then add a couple of squirts of Dawn - not too much - and fill with water. Water from the hose is fine.

Windows are best cleaned on a cloudy day. The sun can dry the cleaner too fast.

Do one window at a time. Using a rag or soft brush, wash the window with the cleaning mixture.

Hose off to rinse. No drying should be needed.

Also, this mixture should not harm your outside plants in any way. The vinegar we use to clean is usually not acidic enough to affect your soil. If it does, it's a very short term thing - like a week at most.

Window Cleaner (inside)

You can use the same formula inside the house; obviously no hose should be involved.

You might also want to use a spray bottle instead of a bucket; it's a little less messy.

I've heard newspapers (instead of rags or paper towels) are great for cleaning windows and making them shine, but we don't get the paper so I haven't tried it.

Every Day Sink Cleaner

I got this recipe from [Clean Mama](#). I was doing the same thing without the dish soap, but it was leaving white marks on my stainless steel sink from the baking soda. Her trick of adding dish soap made all the difference!

Baking soda - I put mine in a parmesan shaker

Dish soap - any kind is fine for this - you don't need Dawn

Clean Mama puts essential oils in her baking soda for the fragrance, I guess. Sometimes I do, sometimes I don't.

Note: If you use Young Living, some Thieves oil would be good for disinfecting, or otherwise I like thyme essential oil, which also disinfects.

Sprinkle the baking soda in your sink and then squirt a little dish soap around. Add a little water, scrub the sink, and rinse. No white residue from the baking soda!

We drink a lot of tea in our house, and even though I try to be good about rinsing when I'm dumping the ice from my glass, it still stains the sink. The baking soda is a gentle abrasive which cleans it right up.

I try to do this every night after I clean up from dinner. It really makes my sinks shine and I feel like my kitchen is so much cleaner!

Stovetop and Grill Rack Cleaner

Ammonia

Large trash bag (for grill rack)

Press and Seal (for stovetop)

To clean a nasty grill from the BBQ, place the rack inside a large trash bag. Add about a cup of ammonia and tie shut as tightly as you can. Swish the bag around a little to wet the grill, but really the fumes will do most of the cleaning.

Let it sit outside overnight, then rinse and scrub the next day. The worst stuff should come right off.

You can do something similar for your stovetop.

Pour a little ammonia around the burners on your stove. I did this without the grates on, but it should work with them, too.

Cover the entire top of the stove with Press and Seal.

You might want to do this in nice weather so you can leave the windows open, because the ammonia is really strong.

You can leave this overnight - that's what I do, and I have a gas range - but if you're worried about the fumes and the gas, leave it for as long as you can during the day.

Again, once you remove it, all the gunk should wipe right off.

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

2 cups borax
2 cups vinegar

Add both to your toilet bowl. Wait 15 minutes and clean.

This works for our toilets, and we have hard water. Despite our whole house water softener, we get iron and lime deposits on everything. This works.

If it's really bad, you may have to do it more than once.

For us, I try and do it about once a month, just to keep things under control.

Stainless Steel

Equal parts vinegar and water
About 1 - 2 tablespoons each of baking soda and dish soap (if you're using less than 2 cups of water and vinegar, use less baking soda and soap)

Make sure you have plenty of room in the container you mix this in, because the vinegar and baking soda will react by foaming.

You can make a small amount in a spray bottle, or make more in a jar and transfer some to the spray bottle.

Spray on stainless steel. Clean with a microfiber cloth and dry with a second one.

Some people recommend rubbing a little olive oil on after that. I don't. I just think you're asking for trouble, regardless of how little oil you use. A kitchen is a dirty, greasy place to begin with; don't add to it.