

Low Cost Cleaning Product Alternatives

Why spend money on countless household cleaning products when all you need are 6 basic ingredients? Mix them up the right way and BINGO!, instant cleaning products. Too good to be true? I don't think so.

Here are the 6 items you will need:

-**Vinegar:** It may smell a little weird, but vinegar can handle everything from dishes to laundry and even weeds.

-**Baking Soda:** Eliminates odors and helps with stains; also works as a natural method of pest control – ants hate it.

-**Rubbing Alcohol:** Works as a disinfectant and is also a great glass cleaner. It also gets grime off plastic and metal surfaces like patio furniture or bathroom fixtures.

-**Lemon Juice:** This cuts through dish grease and is an ingredient for homemade furniture polish – but it's not the easiest thing to preserve long-term.

-**Borax:** This mineral salt beats bleach as a toilet cleaner and is also useful for scrubbing walls. Works great with laundry, too.

- **Fels-Naptha soap.** This one's actually made by one of those big cleaning companies out to pinch our wallets. They recommend it for “pre-treating” stains. In other words, “use this in addition to a bunch of our other expensive products”. But you can turn the tables by using it as part of a recipe for your *own* laundry detergent. (As a bonus side note, you can use Fels-Naptha to treat poison ivy. Simply lather it over the poison on your skin and let it dry. It will dry out the poison!)

Now that you have the ingredients, what cleaning products can you make?

Floor cleaner

- ½ cup Vinegar
- 1 gallon of Water

Window Cleaner

Mix together:

- 2 teaspoon Vinegar
- 1 quart of Warm Water

OR

- 2 tablespoons Borax
- 3 cups of Water

Rub dry with newspaper to avoid streaking

Disinfectant

Mix together:

- ¼ cup Borax
- ½ gallon of Hot Water

Household Cleaner

Mix together:

- ¼ cup Baking Soda
- ½ cup Borax
- ½ cup Vinegar
- 1 gallon of Water

Oven Cleaner

Mix together:

- ¼ cup Baking Soda
- 2 tablespoons Salt
- Hot water, as needed to make a paste
- Let paste sit for 5 minutes (Caution: Keep off wires/heating elements)

Drain Cleaner

Pour together:

- ½ cup Borax in drain, followed by
- 2 cups Boiling Water

OR

- ¼ cup Baking Soda down the drain, followed by
- ½ cup Vinegar
- Cover drain and let sit for 15 minutes
- Follow with 2 quarts Boiling Water

Toilet Bowls

Pour:

- ¼ cup Baking Soda into bowl and drizzle with Vinegar
- Let sit for ½ hour
- Scrub and flush
- Add borax for stains

Ceramic Tiles

Mix together:

- ¼ cup Vinegar
- 1 gallon Warm Water

Basin, Tub, and Tile

Mix together:

- ½ cup Baking Soda
- 2-3 tablespoons Liquid Soap (Castile, Peppermint)

Garbage Disposal Freshener

Grind ice and lemon or orange juice in the disposal

Mildew Remover

Dissolve together:

- ½ cup Vinegar
- ½ cup Borax in Warm Water
- Apply with sponge or spray bottle

Furniture Polish (Wood Surfaces)

- Rub toothpaste on wood furniture to remove water marks
- Polish wood with 2 teaspoons Lemon Oil and 1 pint Mineral Oil in spray bottle
- Spray, rub in and wipe clean
- Mix 2 parts Olive Oil to 1 part Lemon Juice
- After rubbing the mixture in, let stand for several hours and then polish with a soft, dry cloth
- Melt 1 tablespoon Carnauba Wax into 2 pints Mineral Oil
- Use sparingly and rub hard

There you have it. Great cleaning products made from much lower cost ingredients. Plus, there aren't any unknown chemicals in these. Try them out for yourself. You'll be pleasantly surprised by their effectiveness.