

Module 6 Family Conservation Resource: Get a Green Clean!



Get a Green Clean! Save money and the environment by making these easy green cleaners. Common and inexpensive ingredients make effective biodegradable, non-toxic cleaners that have minimal impact on the environment! As with all cleaners, avoid contact with eyes, keep out of the reach of children, and clearly mark all containers.

What You Will Need:

- Baking soda (cleans, deodorizes, scours, softens water)
- White vinegar (cuts grease and grime, mildly disinfects)
- Pure castile soap (liquid, flakes, or bars)

Easy Green Clean Recipes

All-Purpose Cleaner: Combine baking soda and warm water to make a watery paste. This mildly abrasive cleaner is great for soap scum in sinks and tubs and cleans toilets, too. **Fragrant Addition:** Add a few drops of essential oil of orange, basil, or lemon. Bottle and enjoy!

All-Purpose Cleaner and Disinfectant: Combine baking soda, white vinegar, and warm water for a mildly abrasive, disinfecting cleaner for sinks, tubs, and toilets. Vinegar and water stop soap scum and kill mold spores in the shower and on tiles. **Note:** Make only as much of this solution as you need for the job as the solution of vinegar and baking soda should not be bottled.

Deodorizer: Add an open box of baking soda to your refrigerator or freezer. For a special touch, add lemon or orange zest (more economical than essential oils). Zest some fruit, peel it, dice it, and you have a delicious, pre-cleaning energy snack! Make potpourri from flowers, herbs, and spices such as cinnamon and cloves for bathroom or kitchen odors.

Floor Cleaner: Hot water and liquid castile soap cleans linoleum, tile, or slate; a 3-to-1 warm water and white vinegar solution disinfects. For hardwood floors, a clean mop with warm water does the trick.

Window and Mirror Cleaner: Spray on a 3-to-1 white vinegar and water solution and rub with newspaper. For really grimy windows, increase the amount of vinegar.

Dish Washer: Add pure castile liquid or powdered soap to washing water. Add essential oils for a pleasant fragrance (basil, rosemary, or citrus oils are good choices for the kitchen). For tough, greasy jobs, add 2-3 teaspoons of vinegar to liquid.

Laundry: Use biodegradable, phosphate-free cleaners readily available at your grocery.

Great Gift Idea! Make friends a **Green Clean Gift Basket** filled with homemade cleaning products. It's certainly more pleasant to clean with natural, non-toxic ingredients than with perfume-masked chemicals!

Green Tip

You can buy green products such as recycled paper towels, toilet paper, and environmentally-friendly cleaners at your local supermarket. Learn more at <http://www.abundantearth.com> or <http://www.buygreen.com/>.