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Living Green: Clean green in your home



Arturo Fernandez/Juice
Laundry detergent and glass cleaner are just a few of the cleaners you can make green.

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5. Instead of paper towels, dry surfaces with a microfiber cloth or newspapers (for a streak-free shine).

6. Host a green cleaning party.

Introduce your friends to green cleaning in a fun way. For a free party kit go to womenandenvironment.org.

[This is one of our 100 Ways to Save the Planet.](#)

[Read more tips here.](#)

4. Clean green.

Green cleaning is about more than protecting the environment from harsh chemicals. It's also about protecting yourself, your family and your home from toxic ingredients. Get started with three DIY recipes for safe and natural cleaners.

All-purpose cleaner

1 teaspoon dish soap (I used Earth Friendly Product's Natural Almond Dish Soap)
2 tablespoons baking soda
4 cups warm water
1/2 tablespoon eucalyptus essential oil
1/4 cup distilled white vinegar

Mix all ingredients in a bowl, then transfer to a spray bottle. If the baking soda leaves a residue on surfaces, add more water and vinegar or reduce soda in next batch.

Glass cleaner

1 cup water
1 cup distilled white vinegar
1 teaspoon lemon essential oil (or other for scent)

Mix ingredients in a bowl and transfer to a spray bottle.

You may have to clean the surface twice the first time to eliminate the film left by traditional cleaners.

Laundry detergent

4 cups Borax
2 cups baking soda (you can also use washing soda)
3 cups grated soap flakes (I used a cheese grater on a bar of Fels-napatha soap. Dr. Bromer's is another good brand of natural soap.)
Distilled white vinegar for the rinse cycle

Mix first three ingredients in a bowl. Transfer to an old laundry detergent box or other storage container.

Use a measuring cup or laundry scoop to add mix to washer. Use 1/2 cup for regular wash and 1 cup for dirtier loads.

Add 1/2 cup vinegar to the rinse cycle to soften fabric.

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