

Green cleaning recipes

Rid your home of the chemicals and petroleum-based ingredients found in most cleaning products by making your own. Tested by the Queen of Green, these homemade cleaners are versatile, affordable, and eco-friendly.

TIP Label your finished products and store them safely away from children and pets.

Recipes with washing soda and borax are less toxic than commercial products, but rarely totally benign. Use them with caution or only for heavy-duty jobs. **Washing soda**, or sodium carbonate, is more caustic and has a higher pH than its cousin, baking soda. **Borax**, or sodium borate, is a naturally occurring alkaline mineral salt but also used as a low-risk pesticide.

Ingredients explained

	Baking soda	Borax	Essential oils	Lemon juice	Liquid castile soap	Salt	Soap granules	Olive oil	White vinegar	Washing soda
Cuts grease	●		●		●		●		●	●
Deodorizes	●		●						●	
Disinfects		●	●	●					●	
Fights mould & mildew		●				●				
Lifts dirt	●			●		●	●			
Softens water										●
Whitens	●	●		●						●

Essential oils are optional; avoid them if you are sensitive to scents. Lemon, lime, grapefruit, tea tree, lemongrass, lavender, and eucalyptus oils have antibacterial, antifungal and/or grease-cutting powers. More tips and recipes at queenofgreen.ca

LAUNDRY SOAPS

All laundry soap recipes work in cold water and HE machines

Liquid laundry soap



Use ½ cup per full load

7 L	water
1 cup	soap granules
½ cup	borax
½ cup	washing soda
20 drops	essential oil (optional)

Add 1 L water and soap granules to pot. Heat until diluted. Pour into pail with 6 L water, borax, and washing soda. Stir until dissolved. Add essential oil. Soap will gel as it cools.

For hard water, add more washing soda. To whiten whites, add ½ cup baking soda to load.

NOTES



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Borax-free liquid laundry soap



Use ½ cup per full load

7 L	hot water
1 cup	baking soda
1 cup	liquid castile soap
⅓ cup	coarse salt

Dissolve dry ingredients in hot water. Add soap and stir.

NOTES



More tips and recipes at queenofgreen.ca

Powdered laundry soap



Use 1-2 Tbsp per load

1 cup	soap granules
½ cup	borax
½ cup	washing soda
10 drops	essential oil (optional)

Combine dry ingredients. Stir in essential oil.

TIP To soften fabrics, pour 1 cup white vinegar into rinse cycle (*not* the wash cycle).

NOTES



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All-purpose spray



For tubs, tiles, counters, microwaves, floors, etc.

1 gallon	hot water
½ cup	white vinegar
½ cup	liquid castile soap
1 Tbsp	borax
10 drops	essential oil (optional)

Combine all ingredients. Pour into spray bottle.

NOTES



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All-purpose scour



A non-abrasive for tubs, tiles, sinks, etc.

1 ⅔ cups	baking soda
½ cup	liquid castile soap
½ cup	water
2 Tbsp	white vinegar

Combine. Pour into squirt bottle and shake before use. Rinse well.

NOTES



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All-purpose powder



As effective in dishwashers as it is on toilets

½ cup	borax
½ cup	washing soda
½ cup	white vinegar

Combine dry ingredients. For toilet: sprinkle onto surface, scrub, and chase with vinegar. For dishwasher: add dry ingredients to soap dispenser and vinegar to rinse dispenser.

NOTES



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Furniture polish



Since wood finishes vary, always do a test patch

2 cups	warm water
2 Tbsp	olive oil
2 Tbsp	white vinegar (or lemon juice)

Pour into spray bottle. Shake well, spray, rub, and polish with rag.

NOTES



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Glass and mirror cleaner



Wipe with newspaper to avoid streaks

½ cup	white vinegar
½ cup	water

Pour into spray bottle.

TIP Before switching to this green cleaner, clean up the waxy residue traditional brands leave behind with a 5% rubbing alcohol-to-water-solution.

NOTES



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Stainless steel cleaner



Removes smudges from stainless steel appliances

1 Tbsp	olive oil
1 Tbsp	white vinegar

Drip olive oil onto rag. Rub surface to get rid of smudges. Drip white vinegar on the other side of rag. Wipe and let dry.

NOTES



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