

# Green Cleaning Recipes



# Welcome to Green Cleaning!












Green Cleaning utilizes environmentally friendly ingredients and procedures designed to preserve environmental quality and human health. We hope this guide provides information to help county residents make good choices for their household and the cleaning products they choose.


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## *Alternative Uses for Household Products*

-  **Toothpaste** – mild abrasive, cleans tarnished silver, antibacterial agent helps remove stains
-  **Salt** – granular texture is ideal for scouring
-  **Baking Soda** – eliminates odors
-  **Ketchup** – removes tarnish from copper and brass cookware
-  **Cornstarch** – adsorbs and cleans grease spills on carpets
-  **Club Soda** – stain removal, shines up scratched stainless steel sinks
-  **Lemons** – stain removal for countertop and cutting boards; low disinfectant and antibacterial qualities
-  **Rubbing Alcohol** – disinfectant
-  **Hydrogen Peroxide** – disinfectant; bleach

### ***Helpful Hint: Make Scented Vinegar***

-  You can make scented vinegar for cleaning instead of adding essential oils. Fill a glass jar with fresh garden herbs such as parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, and/or lavender; use your imagination or what you have available. Then fill the jar with white distilled vinegar, close the lid, and let it rest on the counter for three days to a week. Strain the vinegar and use it in your favorite green cleaning recipe. Enjoy the fresh herbal scent!

### ***Helpful Hint: Label Your Cleaning Products***

-  Be sure to put labels on your products. You may not be the only person to use them or you might forget what is in the spray bottle or jar. It only takes a minute to make a label, but it will save time and frustration later.

## Green Cleaning Products

Many of the recipes in this book can be made with the ingredients in the starter cleaning kit. As you catch on to the green cleaning way, you can expand your kit to create even more recipes to replace the store bought products in your home.

### Starter Cleaning Kit

*(The cost of the starter kit is approximately \$13)*

- Baking Soda
- Borax
- Distilled water
- Isopropyl Rubbing Alcohol (70%)
- Distilled White Vinegar

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### Expanded Cleaning Kit

- Castile Soap
- Citric Acid Powder
- Essential Oils (eucalyptus, lavender, lemon, peppermint, spearmint, tea tree, etc.)
- Fels-Naptha or other laundry bar soap
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Lemon Juice
- Washing Soda



# All Purpose Cleaner

## Ingredients

- 1 cup distilled white vinegar
- 1 cup distilled or filtered water
- 1 tsp borax (optional)
- 10 drops of lemon essential oil (optional)
- 10 drops of lavender essential oil (optional)

## Directions

- Mix all ingredients in a 16 oz. spray bottle
- Shake before use

## Use

- Spray on surface, wipe off with clean cloth



# *Granite and Marble Cleaner*

## **Ingredients**

- ¼ cup isopropyl alcohol
- 3 drops liquid dish soap
- 1 ½ cups distilled water
- 20 to 30 drops of essential oil (optional)

## **Directions**

- Mix all ingredients in a 16 oz. spray bottle
- Shake before use

## **Use**

- Spray on surface, wipe off with clean cloth or microfiber cloth

Note: Granite countertops need to be maintained with granite sealer product.



# *Glass Cleaner*

## **Ingredients**

- 1 cup of distilled or filtered water
- ½ cup of distilled white vinegar
- ¼ cup of 70% isopropyl alcohol

## **Directions**

- Mix ingredients in a 16 oz. spray bottle

## **Use**

- Spray on glass or window, wipe off with clean cloth



# Oven Cleaner

## Ingredients

- 1 cup baking soda
- ¼ cup of distilled white vinegar

## Directions

- Slowly add vinegar to baking soda to make a paste

## Use

- Remove racks
- Apply paste to the inside of the oven walls, floor, and racks
- Replace racks into oven
- Heat oven to 200 degrees for 1 hour
- Let oven cool then wipe with a damp cloth





# Dishwasher Machine Soap

## Ingredients

- 2 cups washing soda
- 1 cup borax
- 1 cup baking soda

## Directions

- Mix ingredients together, store in an air tight container

## Use

- Pour 2 Tbsp. in soap dispenser of dishwasher



## Laundry Soap

### Ingredients

- 1 bar Fels-Naptha soap, grated
- 1 cup washing soda
- 1 cup borax

### Directions

- Mix ingredients together, grind to powder in food processor, store in an air tight container

### Use

- 1 Tbsp. for light loads or 2 Tbsp. for heavy loads
  - Use with cold, warm, or hot water wash setting
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## Fabric Softener

### Ingredients

- ¼ cup of distilled white vinegar

### Use

- Add to fabric softener cup
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## Fabric Refresher Spray

### Ingredients

- ½ cup of cheap vodka
- 1 ½ cup of distilled water
- 15 drops of lavender essential oil (optional)

### Directions

- Shake together in a 16 oz. spray bottle

### Use

- Spray clothes to remove odors between dry cleaning.  
Excellent for upholstery

# Toilet Bowl Cleaner

## Ingredients

- ½ cup of baking soda
- 1 cup of distilled white vinegar

## Directions

- Dump ingredients into the toilet bowl and let fizz
- Brush and flush



# Toilet Bowl Bomb

## Ingredients

- 1 cup of baking soda
- 1/4 cup of citric acid powder
- 1/8 cup of borax
- Water
- 30 drops of essential oils (optional)

## Directions

- Mix powdered ingredients together
- Spray lightly with water until powdered ingredients just hold together
- Pack into mold; fill to half
- Let dry overnight
- Release from mold
- Store in an air tight container

## Use

- Drop one toilet bomb in the toilet and let it sit for 10-15 minutes, brush and flush



# Scouring Powder

## Ingredients

- ½ cup of borax
- ½ cup of baking soda
- ¼ cup of dried citrus peel, ground (optional)

## Directions

- Mix together and store in an air tight container
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# Soft Scrub

## Ingredients

- ½ cup of baking soda
- ½ cup of castile soap
- 15 drops of rosemary or tea tree essential oil (optional)

## Directions

- Mix together and store in a plastic squirt bottle



## *Tile and Laminate Floor Cleaner*

### **Ingredients**

- 1 cup of distilled white vinegar
- ¼ cup of castile soap
- ¾ cup of water
- 20 drops of lavender essential oil (optional)
- 20 drops of sweet orange essential oil (optional)

### **Directions**

- Mix together in a 16 oz. spray bottle

### **Use**

- Spray liberally on floor, mop with a damp mop
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## *Wood Floor Cleaner*

### **Ingredients**

- ½ cup of distilled white vinegar
- 1 ½ cups of water
- 20 drops of lemon essential oil (optional)

### **Directions**

- Mix together in a 16 oz. spray bottle

### **Use**

- Spray liberally on wood floor, mop with a damp mop

## *Carpet Cleaner*

### **Ingredients**

- 1 cup of vinegar

### **Use**

- Use in place of commercial carpet cleaner in carpet steamer tank
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## *Carpet Freshener*

### **Ingredients**

- 1 cup of baking soda
- 20 drops of lavender essential oil (optional)
- 20 drops of sweet orange essential oil (optional)

### **Directions**

- Mix together

### **Use**

- Sprinkle on carpet, allow to sit for at least 30 minutes; vacuum as normal
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## *Carpet Spot Cleaner*

### **Ingredients**

- Club soda

### **Use**

- Soak stain with club soda blot dry with clean cloth

# Ant Control

## Ingredients

- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 Tbsp. borax
- ½ cup of water

## Directions

- Combine ingredients in a saucepan
- Bring to a boil and boil for three minutes.
- Let it cool completely, it will thicken as it cools.

## Use

- Pour cooled ant killer mixture and into short jar lids so that the ants can crawl over the side.
- Keep baited container away from children and pets
- Place the lid where you see ants. They will eat the mixture and take it back to the queen and they'll die. It won't happen instantly, it might take a day or two.









# Acknowledgements

## Websites

There are many resources for additional green cleaning recipes and variations for recipes on the internet.

Riverside County Department of Waste Resources,  
[www.rcwaste.org](http://www.rcwaste.org)

U.S. EPA: [www.epa.gov/saferchoice](http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice) - Safer Choice helps consumers, businesses, and purchasers find products that perform well and are safer for human health and the environment.

Government of Alberta, Canada,  
<http://www.onesimpleact.alberta.ca/>

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## Book

*The Naturally Clean Home: 150 Super-Easy Herbal Formulas for Green Cleaning*, by Karyn Siegel Maier

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## Volunteer

Special thanks to volunteer Jane Wilder-O'Connor whose enthusiasm and interest in herbs and simplicity helped inspire and format this booklet.

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This information above is offered as a public service in an effort to eliminate illegal and improper waste disposal. As the information may not be comprehensive, the Department encourages the public to research additional information. The resources are not affiliated, endorsed or regulated by the Department. Under no circumstances, directly or indirectly, shall the Department be held responsible or liable for reliance on this information.



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