

Drain cleaner

(from nrdc.org, the National Resources Defense Council)

1 cup baking soda
1 cup vinegar

Add baking soda and vinegar to a pot of boiled water and pour down the drain, then flush with tap water. For more stubborn clogs, use a "snake" plumbing tool to manually remove blockage, or try suction removal with a plunger.

To prevent clogs, install inexpensive mesh screen, available at home improvement and hardware stores.

Tim's note: Dump the vinegar in first. Then, position your pot in the tub right next to the drain before you add the baking soda. . Because... once you add the baking soda, you're gonna have a lot of fizzes.

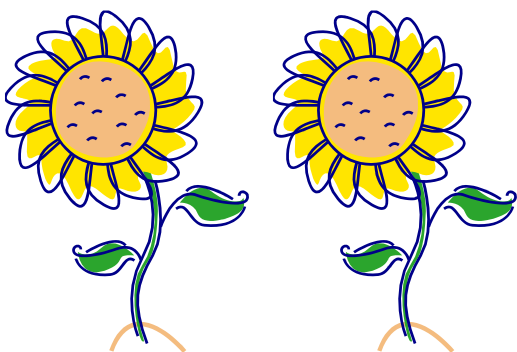
Almost All-Propose Spray Cleaner

(Adapted from *Make Your Place* by Raleigh Briggs)

1 tsp liquid Castile soap
A few drops each Eucalyptus and lavender essential oil
3 drops tea tree oil
2 cups hot (not boiling) water

Mix all ingredients together in a spray bottle. You can use this on anything besides glass. Spray it on, scrub, and rinse off with a clean, damp cloth

Heather's note: It didn't seem necessary to rinse this. It evaporated without leaving surfaces sticky. This originally called for two T white vinegar, which is how I originally made it. I've seen an article that suggests leaving the vinegar out or possibly rinsing with a vinegar-dampened cloth.



Soap scum remover (for showers and tubs)

(This recipe is all over the web, but this particular version is from idreamofclean.net)

You'll need the power of vinegar, as well as some abrasion, to remove soap scum.

Here's a recipe for an effective homemade soap scum remover.

Ingredients:

- 1 part distilled white vinegar
- 1 part dish soap

Directions:

Heat the white vinegar until it's hot (*but not so hot as to melt the spray bottle!*). Combine vinegar with the dish soap and put into a spray bottle. Mix well. Spray the mixture onto the soap scum and let it sit for approximately 30 minutes and then use a plastic scrubber or non-scratching scrubber sponge to scrub at the mixture. The combination of the acidity from the vinegar, the cleaning of the soap, and the abrasiveness of the scrubber will wipe away the soap scum.

Tim's note: you don't really need to wait 30 minutes. Even just waiting 10 will do. To heat the vinegar, you can either put it in a pot and put it on the stove, or microwave it. Just be careful when pouring the heated vinegar into your spray bottle. Also, this will leave a lingering smell of vinegar. But that smell won't hurt you. Just open a window.

Basic window cleaner

(Adapted from *Make Your Place* by Raleigh Briggs)

1 cup water
1 cup white vinegar
A few drops of lemon oil or lemon juice

Combine all ingredients in a spray bottle. Shake well before using. Spray on and wipe off with newspaper.

Fabric softener mixture

(From *Make Your Place* by Raleigh Briggs)

½ cup baking soda

1 T arrowroot powder

1 T rice flour or cornstarch

1-3 drops essential oil

Mix together and add to pouch. Put in dryer with clothes. Refill pouch when scent fades.

Toilet bowl cleaner

Roughly ¼ cup baking soda

Roughly ½ cup white vinegar

I say roughly because when I do this I just dump in some of each. It does that fizzy action like the drain cleaner so mix it in the toilet bowl. Scrub and flush.

