

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.

NOTE **Washing soda**, or sodium carbonate, is more caustic and has a higher pH than its cousin, baking soda.

Ingredients explained

	Baking soda	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, orange, lime, grapefruit, tea tree, thyme, lemongrass, lavender, rosemary 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	baking soda
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, baking soda, and washing soda. Stir until dissolved. Add essential oil. Soap will gel as it cools.

For hard water, add more washing soda.

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



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Powdered laundry soap



Use 1-2 Tbsp per load

1 cup	soap granules
½ cup	baking soda
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	liquid castile soap
10 drops	essential oil (optional)

Combine all ingredients. Pour into spray bottle.

TIP Thyme essential oil is a powerful weapon against germs.

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

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	baking soda
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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