

In the Bathroom

Mold and mildew cleaners

- Make a concentrated solution of borax and water and clean affected areas.
- Scrub mildew spots with baking soda or borax. Sponge with white vinegar.
- Scrub with white vinegar and salt.
- Mix 2 parts baking soda to 1 part borax. Sprinkle on surfaces, dampen and allow to sit for a time to absorb odors. Scrub and rinse.
- Dissolve ½ cup vinegar and ½ cup borax in warm water.
- To clean mildew from a shower curtain, machine wash with ½ cup soap and ½ cup baking soda; add a cup of white vinegar to the rinse cycle.



Scouring powder

- Mix equal parts of baking soda and salt.

Toilet bowl cleaner

- Scrub with a solution of ½ cup borax in a gallon of water for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Spray or drizzle vinegar on stubborn rings and lime build-up and scrub or use a pumice stone.

Tub and tile cleaner

- Use full strength vinegar on a sponge, then use baking soda as a scouring powder. Rinse well.
- Use ½ cup of borax to a gallon of hot water for cleaning and as a disinfectant.
- Mix ¼ cup vinegar in 1 gallon water.
- To clean grout, combine 3 cups of baking soda and a cup of warm water and scrub into the grout; rinse well with water.

In the Laundry

Fabric softener

- Use ¼ to ½ cup baking soda in rinse water.
- Add 1 cup vinegar or ¼ cup baking soda during final rinse.
- Use ½ cup borax and half the amount of detergent per wash load.

Laundry bleach

- Use ½ cup white vinegar in rinse water to brighten dark clothing.
- Substitute ½ cup borax per wash load to whiten whites and brighten colors and to remove spots.

Laundry presoak

- Soak heavily soiled items in warm water with ½ cup washing soda for 30 minutes.
- Rub soiled areas with mild liquid soap.

Stain Pretreatment

- Make a paste of baking soda and water and spread on stain. Wet with vinegar. Soak in soapy water.

Spray starch

- For regular fabrics, dissolve 2 tablespoons cornstarch in a pint of cold water; store in a spray bottle.



Safer Household Cleaners



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