

The MountainClean Team's All Natural Cleaning Tips

Soft Scrub

Add enough soap (I use dish soap) to 1/8 cup baking soda to make a creamy mixture. Apply with sponge to clean; rinse the surface well

Clean copper-bottomed pots and pans with lemon juice. Copper fixtures can also benefit from a lemon juice cleaning. Cut a lemon in half, dip it in some salt, and clean spots from your copper.

A few drops vanilla extract on a piece of cotton placed in the refrigerator will help eliminate odors

Wipe refrigerator with vinegar after cleaning to help prevent mildew

Alka seltzer tablets or denture tablets can be dropped into the toilet. They do the cleaning for you. All you have to do is scrub.

Toilet Cleaner/Deodorizer

Sprinkle toilet bowl with 1/4 cup baking soda, drizzle with 1/4 cup vinegar, then scour with a toilet brush!

A secret to peeling those hard boiled eggs... Add a teaspoon of salt to your water before placing the eggs in to boil. This should cause the shells to peel right off.

Keep your silverware from tarnishing by storing it on top of a sheet of aluminum foil.

To fix a "musty closet" smell: Put some charcoal briquettes (the kind that doesn't contain lighter fluid) into some cheesecloth. Tie them up and hang them in the closet. Charcoal is a natural deodorizer. You can also cut off the leg of an old pair of pantyhose and use instead of cheesecloth!

Aluminum Foil: Use those left over clean aluminum foil pieces to sharpen your scissors, here's how: Smooth the pieces out if necessary, and then fold strips into several layers and start cutting. Seven or eight passes should do the trick. Is that crazy or what?

A crumpled handful of aluminum foil can be used to scrub pans if you're out of scrubbing brushes or Brillo pads!

Sliced bread: Yep, bread. It's great for picking up small pieces of broken glass and for removing oily smudges on walls and carpet. Just don't eat it afterwards!

Clean and deodorize a drain by pouring in 1 cup baking soda, then one cup hot white distilled vinegar. Let this sit for 15 minutes or so then run hot water down the drain.

Chalk can often get rid of grease spots on clothes. Rub chalk on the grease spot and leave for a few minutes then simply brush off. If any grease lingers apply chalk once more before laundry.

To keep your silver from tarnishing faster, put a couple of pieces of chalk in the drawer with your silver. The chalk will adsorb moisture and slow tarnishing.

How to naturally remove cat pee.

If it is a fresh (not yet dried) soaking of cat urine, blot with paper towel. Remove as much of the urine as possible. If necessary, stand on paper towels to absorb as much urine as possible.

Mist the area with water from a spray bottle. This includes even the dry areas. You want it to be damp. The moisture will help to pull the urine out of the carpet.

Sprinkle a "good" layer baking soda over entire area.

Let dry. As the carpet and baking soda dries it will begin to turn yellow as it pulls the urine out of the carpet.

Once completely dry, vacuum area well. Repeat the process until the baking soda stays white. It may take 2-3 times. But the stain and the smell will be gone.

To remove wine, coffee and rust from your carpet, spray with a mixture of half white vinegar and water. Rub gently with your hand, let dry, then vacuum.

For mold and mildew removal, mix a solution of two teaspoons tea tree oil (available at health food stores) to two cups of water and keep in a spray bottle. Spray onto mold or mildew. Don't rinse. The strong smell fades in a couple of days. This solution will also remove musty smells from cloth items and clothes. Soak clothes for a few hours, then wash normally. What can't be soaked can be sprayed and then aired for a few days until the fragrance of the tea tree oil subsides.

For mold and mildew on non-porous washable surfaces, a white vinegar and water mixture works great.

To clean stainless steel, wipe with a vinegar dampened cloth, going with the grain.

To give your stainless steel an extra beautiful shine, apply baby oil to a clean cloth or paper towel and rub the stainless steel, going with the grain. Wipe off excess.

Shine your frosted glass shower doors with baby oil. Not only does baby oil get rid of hard water spots, it will help keep them off.

Keep colors from running. Immerse clothes in full strength vinegar before washing.

Get smoke smell out of clothes. Add a cup of vinegar to a bath tub of hot water. Hang clothes above the steam.

Polish chrome faucets in the bathroom or kitchen with a dab of toothpaste (the non-gel variety) and then buff them with a soft cloth.