

How to Clean Your Home This Summer — Naturally!

Consider swapping out harsh chemical cleaners for these natural alternatives as your summer cleaning gets into full swing.

All-Purpose Cleaner

- 1/2 cup white vinegar
- 10 drops of tea tree, lavender or lemon essential oils
- 2 tablespoons baking soda
- Water

Instructions: Combine vinegar, essential oils and a small amount of water in a clean, 12-ounce spray bottle. Add baking soda, then fill bottle to the top with water. Shake gently to mix ingredients.

Wood Polish

- 3/4 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup white vinegar
- 30 drops of lemon or orange essential oils

Instructions: Combine all ingredients in a spray bottle and shake to mix. Spray directly on wooden surfaces and wipe down with a dry, clean cloth. Shake before each use.

Mirror/Glass Cleaner

- 1/4 cup rubbing alcohol
- 1/4 cup white vinegar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 2 cups warm water

Instructions: Combine all ingredients in a spray bottle, shake to mix thoroughly. Spray on glass surface, and wipe down with a microfiber cloth. Shake mixture well before each use.

Carpet Cleaner

- 1 cup white vinegar
- 2 cups water
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 15 drops of lavender essential oil

Instructions: Combine vinegar and water in spray bottle, then add salt and essential oils. Shake to mix ingredients. Spray liberally on carpets, and shake in between sprays. Once carpet is dry, vacuum all areas sprayed.

Toilet Cleaner

- 1 cup vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon tea tree essential oil
- 1/2 cup baking soda

Instructions: Mix vinegar and essential oil in a spray bottle. Spray on toilet bowl, base, seat and lid. Add baking soda around bowl, scrub with a toilet brush. When it's all clean, use paper towels to wipe down all areas sprayed with the solution.

SOURCES: Katie Vance, "Natural Homemade Carpet Cleaner & Stain Remover," *DIY Natural. Keeper of The Home*; "The Ultimate Guide to Homemade All-Natural Cleaning Recipes," Ellen Gans, "11 Homemade Natural Cleaning Products — DIY Recipes & Uses," *Money Crashers*.