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**Green Cleaning**

**Try replacing some of the harsh commercial cleaners in your home with more natural ingredients. Please be sure to always label bottles and containers and keep out of reach of children. Many of the following ingredients are natural, but could still cause injury if swallowed or in eyes, or irritation if on skin for a prolonged period.**

**Laundry Detergent**

5-6 oz (1 or 2 bars) soap, grated as fine as possible (Laundry bar soap works best. Fels-Naptha, Zote, or Kirk’s Castile will work. Avoid soaps with lotions)

3 c Borax (found in the laundry care/cleaning aisle)

3 c washing soda (found in the laundry care/cleaning aisle)

2 c baking soda (same stuff used for baking, large containers can usually be found where pool/spa supplies are sold or at warehouse membership stores)

Unwrap soap and let it dry out for a couple weeks to make it easier to grate. Place all ingredients in a plastic baggie and carefully turn and toss around to mix. Store in an air tight container. Use 1-2 tablespoons per load. Tip: Dissolve powder in a little bit of water first as the washing machine is filling to evenly distribute it and keep clumps of powder from sticking to clothes.

**Laundry Stain Remover**

½ c hydrogen peroxide

¼ c Dawn

 ¼ c baking soda

Mix into a wet paste. Apply to stains and work in with a toothbrush. Let set for an hour. Rinse and wash as normal. Test on an inconspicuous area first if you are worried about color-fastness. Peroxide may bleach some clothing. Store any leftovers in an air tight container in a dark location. Or just mix a fresh batch each time. Peroxide loses effectiveness when exposed to light.

**Bathroom Soft Scrub**

1 c baking soda

½ tsp Dawn

2-3 tbsp white vinegar

Mix into a paste. Apply with a cloth or brush and scrub. Rinse with clean water.

**Bathtub Soap Scum Remover**

Fill bathtub with a few inches of water (or as high as needed to cover any soap scum or rings), add 2-3 cups white vinegar. Let soak for half an hour. Scrub with a brush and rinse.

**Drain Cleaner**

½ c baking soda

½ c white vinegar

Very hot water (not quite boiling)

First use a plunger and hot running water to help loosen the clog. Pour baking soda and vinegar in the drain and let foam for several minutes. Rinse down with very hot water. Repeat until drain is clear.

**All-purpose Cleaning Spray**

Citrus peels (orange, lemon, etc.)

White Vinegar

Water

Place citrus peels in a jar. Pour in white vinegar to cover peels. Let soak for at least 2 weeks to allow oils to soak into the vinegar. Strain vinegar through cheesecloth or a coffee filter. Dilute with an equal amount of water and pour in a spray bottle.

**Glass cleaner**

1/8 c white vinegar

1 c water

Store in a spray bottle.

**Furniture polish**

Mix an equal amount of olive oil and white vinegar. Wipe onto wooden furniture with a soft cloth.

**Homemade “Goo Gone”**

1 tsp vegetable oil

2 tsp baking soda

Mix into a paste. Rub and work into sticker residue until adhesive loosens. Wipe/wash off.