

HELPFUL HOUSEHOLD HINTS AND CLEANING RECIPES

By Dmitri Allicock - for Guyanese Online

Here are some tips I would like to share with readers:

Take your bananas apart when you get home from the store.

If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster.

Store your opened chunks of cheese in aluminum foil. It will stay fresh much longer and not mold! (But you **can** scrape off any mold and **still** eat the cheese without changes in flavor!

Add a teaspoon of water when frying ground beef. It will help pull the grease away from the meat while cooking.

To make scrambled eggs or omelets rich add a couple of spoonfuls of sour cream, cream cheese, or heavy cream in and then beat them up.

Reheat leftover pizza in a nonstick skillet on top of the stove, on med-low and heat till warm. This keeps the crust crispy. No soggy micro pizza.

Easy Deviled Eggs: Put cooked egg yolks in a zip lock bag, seal, mash, add remainder of ingredients, keep mashing, mixing thoroughly, cut the tip of the baggy, squeeze mixture into egg. Just throw the bag away!

Expanding Frosting: When you buy a container of cake frosting from the store, whip it with your mixer for a few minutes. You can double it in size. You get to frost more cake/cupcakes for the same price. You also eat less sugar and calories per serving.

Reheating refrigerated bread: To warm biscuits, pancakes, or muffins that were refrigerated, place them in a microwave with a cup of water. The increased moisture will keep the food moist and help it reheat faster.

Newspaper weeds away: Plant your plants in the ground; work the nutrients in your soil. Then wet newspapers, put layers around the plants overlapping as you go, cover with mulch, and forget about weeds. Weeds will get through some gardening plastic they will not get through wet newspapers.

To keep squirrels from eating your plants, sprinkle your plants with cayenne pepper. The cayenne pepper doesn't hurt the plant: squirrels won't come near it.

Pin a small safety pin to the seam of your slip or slacks to eliminate static cling. It works; you will not have a clingy skirt or dress, or slacks when wearing panty hose; ... Ta DA! ... Static is gone.

Before you pour sticky substances into a measuring cup, fill with hot water. Dump out the hot water, but don't dry cup.

Next, add your ingredient, such as peanut butter, and watch how easily it comes right out. **De-fog your windshield:** Buy a chalkboard eraser and keep it in the glove box of your car. When the windows fog, rub with the eraser! Works better than a cloth!

Re-opening envelopes: If you seal an envelope and then realize you forgot to include something inside, just place your sealed envelope in the freezer for an hour or two. Voila! It unseals easily. Only for old-fashioned "lick-type" mucilage envelopes!

Use your hair conditioner to shave your legs. It's cheaper than shaving cream and leaves your legs really smooth.

Goodbye Fruit Flies: To get rid of pesky fruit flies, take a small glass, fill it 1/2" with Apple Cider Vinegar and 2 drops of dish washing liquid; mix well. You will find those flies drawn to the cup and gone forever!

Get Rid of Ants: Put small piles of cornmeal where you see ants. They eat it, take it 'home,' can't digest it so it kills them. It may take a week or so, especially if it rains, but it works and you don't have the worry about pets or small children being harmed!

Drop a small object on the carpet and can't find it. Place panty hose over the end of the vacuum hose and start vacuuming. The panty hose will keep it from getting sucked into the vacuum.

HERE ARE SOME MORE

SUPER GLUE REMOVER

Use acetone nail polish remover on cotton ball and let it saturates the super glue to remove it.

REVIVE OLD MARKER PENS

Acetone nail polish remover will revive an old marker pen when it gets dried up. Just dip the tip part in the acetone. Recap. Can use it again to write, draw, or color within a couple hours.

MAKE YOUR OWN ADHESIVES

Mix 3 pkgs. unflavored gelatin with 1 Tbsp. cold water and 3 Tbsp. boiling water. Stir until dissolved. Add 1/2 tsp. peppermint oil. Store it in a small covered tub. It will congeal so to use it, microwave for 10 seconds on high.

REMOVAL OF ADHESIVE STICKERS

For stickers on glass use vegetable oil. Soak the item in oil for a couple minutes to remove the sticker easily.

For plastic use WD-40 and let it soak on the item for a couple minutes to remove easily.

For metal use nail polish remover on cotton ball and let soak in for a couple minutes to remove sticker easily.

For wood use vegetable oil and let it soak in for thirty minutes. Scrape off sticker with a Teflon scraper.

ALL PURPOSE CLEANERS

WARNING: NEVER ADD BLEACH TO AMMONIA AS THERE WILL BE HARMFUL VAPORS!

Place in a quart spray bottle 1/2 cup ammonia, 1 cup baking soda, and 2 cups water. Mix and use to clean

In a quart spray bottle place 1 quart water. Add 2 Tbsp. lemon juice and 2 tsp. powdered Boraxo. Mix and use to do general cleaning

In a quart spray bottle mix 1 quart warm water, 1/8 cup white vinegar and 1/4 cup white ammonia and use to clean.

ANT DETERRANT

If you have a problem with ants coming in your door, take a piece of white chalk and draw a line. The ants will not cross the line!

ANT KILLER

Buy a 5 or 10 lb. pkg. of unflavored instant grits and sprinkle them lightly around wherever the ants have built their colonies. They will flock to the grits immediately, eat them, and the grits will make the ants implode and destroy them.

Ants don't like cayenne pepper sprinkled around their anthills, or cucumber peelings.

AUTOMATIC DRIP COFFEE POT CLEANER

Add 1 cup white distilled vinegar to your automatic drip coffee pot to clean it out. Rinse well with a pot of cold, clean water.

AUTOMOBILE FRAGRANCE

Put a sheet of fabric softener underneath each seat in the car to make it smell nice.

For bad odors in cars, put some new ground up coffee beans in area where odor is. Leave for a couple days if possible and vacuum it up. Odor should be gone or at least better smelling.

MAKE YOUR OWN BACKSCRUBBER

Cut the legs off of a pair of pantyhose. Insert a bar of soap into one of the legs, centering the soap so it is in the middle of the leg. Secure it there by tying a knot on both sides of the soap. You can use this to wash your back with or your body as nylon acts as a mild abrasive to the skin.

BANANA HANGER

Buy a long utility hook and screw it underneath one of your kitchen cabinets. Hang your bananas on it.

BATHROOM CLEANING MADE EASIER

Mix equal parts Epsom salts and liquid dish detergent and scrub down the bath tub, sink, or shower area with it.

Use equal parts cream of tartar and hydrogen peroxide mixed together to clean rust stains.

Pour a can of soft drink in your toilet bowl and let it sit overnight. Brush and flush for a clean toilet bowl.

Old pantyhose make a great scrubber for the bathtub and sink.

To keep rust spots from forming on the bottom of aluminum cans coat their bottoms with clear nail polish.

BLACKENED POTS NEED CLEANING

If you have pots that have blackened because you boiled water in them, soak the pots with a pot of water in them to which you add 2 denture tablets. Let them soak overnight. The pot should be clean in the morning. Wash before using.

BOTTLE CLEANER

To clean bottles or Thermos bottles put 2 tsp. baking soda and some hot water in it. Cap and shake, let sit overnight to clean. Rinse well next morning.

BRASS CLEANER OR COPPER CLEANER

Make a paste out of white corn meal and white vinegar. Coat the tarnished brass with this paste and leave on for five minutes.

Wipe off with a soft clean cloth and tarnish will be gone. Buff with a soft clean cloth.

Slice a lemon in half and sprinkle some table salt on it generously. Rub your brass pot with this to clean it. Wipe off with a clean, dry cloth. This will work on copper items just as well.

BUG KILLER

Mix 1 tsp. sugar with 1 cup baking soda and spread it around where bugs might crawl. The sugar will attract them to eat, but the baking soda will kill them as they cannot digest it.

This recipe is not harmful to humans or animals.

Mix 1 part boric acid powder to 1 part sugar and sprinkle around area where bugs or ants crawl to get rid of them

BUG REPELLANTS

Lay pieces of Peppermint Icebreakers chewing gum still in wrappers inside your cabinets to repel bugs.

Flies hate the smell of basil. Grow this herb around doors or in pots around doors to repel them.

Bay leaves or wrapped peppermint gum will keep bugs out of your sugar and flour.

Pine needles or pine odors will keep bugs away from your pet's bed. Lavender works just as well. Bugs hate the smell. You can keep bugs off you with lavender rubbed on yourself.

ELASTIC THREAD IN YOUR BUTTONS

Sew your buttons on with elastic thread and your blouses and

pants won't pull or bunch anymore. This is a great tip if you have a large chest or are heavy around the middle. It also makes it easier for small children and senior citizens to button their clothing.

CALCIUM AND LIME DEPOSITS

Equal parts of vinegar and baking soda will cut calcium and lime deposits.

REMOVING CANDLEWAX

You can remove candle wax from candlesticks and clothing by freezing the items. The wax will flake off easily.

If candle wax gets on carpet, use a warm iron placed on double-thick paper towels and irons it off. The paper towels will absorb the melted wax. Keep repeating until the wax is gone.

CAR CLEANING TIPS

To clean upholstery in your car use soapy water and a mild brush and vacuum up the water with a Wet-Vac.

Use Q-tips to clean the air vents and nooks in a car. You can also use makeup brushes and toothpicks to clean the small hard to reach areas.

Clean your dashboard and vinyl in the car with furniture polish and a soft cloth. Buy lint-free mechanics rags to use to dust with.

Use pet stain cleaner to remove nasty odors from your car's carpeting.

Spray room fragrance in your car after you clean it to make it smell nice.

Got a scratch on your car? Cover it with a matching crayon. Find a crayon the same color as your car and rub the crayon over the scratched place. Buff off any waxy residue with a soft cloth. This will even work on keyed scratches.

Pour a bottle of club soda on your windshield to cut grease and grime. Squeegee it off.

If your wiper blades are dull, you can sharpen both sides with an emery board.

In the winter time, spray your car's door gaskets with PAM to keep them from freezing shut.

Spray PAM on your car's grill and hood before going on a trip to keep bugs and stuff from sticking to your car. You can wash it off with shampoo and some warm water.

Use furniture polish to shine your car if you don't have any wax. It won't hurt the outside of your car.

To clean hubcaps use baking soda and a wet brush. Hose off with water.

To remove bumper stickers use a hot hair dryer to reactivate the adhesive, then just pull the sticker off.

To clean the bumper a piece of balled up aluminum foil. Pour some soft drink on the bumper and rub it clean with the foil.

Refresh your old air freshener in your car by dropping some of your favorite essential oil on it- Just a few drops.

Use a Wet-One or a Baby-Wipe disposable cloth to clean the dashboard.

Use a Brillo pad to clean wheels of road grime and hose off with water.

CAST IRON SKILLET CLEANER (RUST)

Sprinkle lemon juice and salt in the rusty iron skillet. Wipe out the rust. Re-season skillet with a lot of oil, Place in a 200 degree oven for one hour, wash the skillet. Dry it thoroughly. Re-season it with more oil. Wipe off excess oil.

NEVER let a cast iron skillet air dry or it will rust!

CD CLEANER

Do not rub around the CD, rub across it to clean it of dust and fingerprints. Use a soft, clean cloth and rubbing alcohol to clean them.

Scratches can be cleaned on CD's by using Pepsodent toothpaste and tepid water and a soft clean cloth. Make straight motions, not circles, over the area where the scratch is on the CD. Rinse and pat dry with a dust-free soft cloth.

Old CD's that are no good anymore can be used as coasters to set drinks on and keep water spots off your furniture.

NEED TO TOUCH UP YOUR CEILING

To touch up popcorn ceilings, use a textured, pre-mixed paint. Dab onto your ceiling with a small paint brush.

DUSTING TIPS

To keep ceiling fans' blades from collecting dust, use furniture polish on them and polish with a soft clean cloth.

Dust your lamp shades with a new paint brush.

To dust your window or door screens use a piece of carpeting on them.

CERAMIC TILE CLEANERS

Pour equal amounts of Epsom salts and liquid dish detergent to form a paste to clean ceramic tiles.

In a spray bottle put 1 qt. warm water. Add 1/4 cup baking soda, 1/4 cup white ammonia, and 1/8 cup white vinegar. Vinegar and baking soda mixed causes a chemical reaction so mix this over a sink as it can be very messy.

If your white grout isn't so white anymore you can paint it with White-Out white correction fluid for typing errors. Just paint it on the grout to cover up the stains.

CHROME CLEANERS

Polish any chrome with rubbing alcohol and a soft cloth.

Mix equal parts rubbing alcohol and white ammonia in a spray bottle to clean chrome- Can also use this to clean mirrors and windows.

CIGARETTE ODORS

If you have people smoking in your home, light some candles to absorb those nasty odors.

Soak a towel in vinegar. Wring it out and whirl it over your head all around the house to get rid of odors.

HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS

Mix 1 tsp. Boraxo , 1/2 tsp. washing soda, 2 Tbsp. white vinegar, 1/2 tsp. Murphy's Oil Soap, and 2 cups water in a spray bottle and use as a general cleaner.

Mix 1/2 cup baking soda with enough liquid detergent to make a creamy paste and use this to clean sinks and tubs. Rinse well.

To make a scrub cleaner mix 1Tbsp. each of Boraxo, sea salt, and baking soda, makes a good scouring powder.

You can mix 1/4 cup baking soda and enough Murphy's Oil Soap to form a paste to make a product that will clean your tub and sink as good as any cleanser but without the gritty residue.

CLOTHES FRESHENER

When your clothes are not dirty but have some kind of odors on them, simply put them in the dryer with a couple sheets of fabric softener and toss for a few minutes on the air only cycle.

COMPUTER OR TV SCREENS

Use a sheet of Bounce fabric softener to clean the dust off your computer or television screens.

ARE YOUR CUPS STAINED?

If your cups are stained from tea or coffee, rub baking soda into the cup with a cloth and water to remove the stains. Rinse with water.

COFFEE FILTERS USES

Use coffee filters for a really large muffin cup.

Strain foods through a coffee filter.

Make your own herbal teabags with coffee filters. Put your loose tea in the middle and bring up sides and secure with a small rubber band at the top.

Use coffee filters to clean small areas with like you would a paper towel.

Clean or polish your shoes with coffee filters.

Use to absorb condensation when you are drinking a cold drink.

Make your own herbal bath bags by filling the coffee filter with your favorite herbs and stapling or taping it closed. Drop into a bathtub full of warm water and relax in the tub for about 15 minutes. Lavender is especially nice to use to relax.

COOKING ODORS

Add 1 Tbsp. lemon juice to vegetables that stink when you are cooking them. Also works when frying fish. Just add the lemon juice to the pan or pot. I use this helpful hint and love it. My

house never smells bad from cooking odors. I use 2 Tbsp. lemon juice when frying salmon patties and the smell is gone as soon as I am done frying. I just mix it in with my oil in the skillet.

COOLER ODORS

If your ice chest or picnic cooler has a nasty smell to it, but it is clean, just wipe it out and place a bowl of vinegar in it. Close the lid and let it stand overnight. Next day, the odor should be gone.

CORD HOLDERS

Use empty paper towel tubes to hold your electric cords or Christmas tree lights. Use one tube per cord or strand. On the outside of the paper tube write the size of the cord or what kind of lights are inside it, store in a drawer so you can find them easily when you need them and no more tangled up tree lights next year.

CRACKED FLOWER VASE?

If you have a vase that has a crack in it but it is still pretty to look at, you can seal the inside of the vase by pouring some melted wax inside the vase and swishing it around the cracked area a few times until it is sealed. You can now use it again for fresh flowers as the water will not leak out.

REMOVING CRUSTY, BURNED ON FOODS

Pour in some dishwasher detergent. Add some very hot water to the dish. Let it soak for an hour or so. Wash as usual.

Fill the dish with hot water and add some vinegar to it. Let it soak overnight and it will come clean easily in the morning. Use baking soda and hot water to soak dishes or pots or pans to clean burned on foods.

DAMP, MUSTY ODORS

Fill a knee high hose with some activated charcoal (the kind that goes in an aquarium), and hang it wherever there is a musty smell.

You can hang a knee-high full of mothballs underneath your house to keep it from smelling musty. It also keeps mice and bugs away. Mice hate the smell of peppermint, so you can use some cotton balls soaked in peppermint oil in the knee-high if you hate the smell of mothballs as I do. I have tried this and the peppermint really does work!

Keep some chalk in the area where it is damp or musty to absorb the odors.

You can keep a low voltage light on if the smell is in a closet to dry out the dampness. Just make sure nothing is touching the light bulb.

Toast a pan of regular long grain rice and put it inside a file cabinet or confined area that has any odor to remove odor.

Freshly ground coffee will absorb odors if left in an area for a day or so.

Musty suitcases can be freshened by balling up some newspapers and placing inside the suitcase for a few days or

until you use it again. After you remove the newspaper, put some fabric softener sheets inside the suitcase to keep it smelling nice.

One tsp. mustard will take any odors out of jars. Fill jar with water and add the mustard. Cap. Shake up, Let sit for 30 minutes. Rinse well. The smell should be gone.

Musty hampers will smell better if you sprinkle some baking soda over the bottom of the hamper to absorb the odors. Or you can keep an open box of baking soda setting in the bottom of the hamper.

Keep an open box of baking soda inside your refrigerator and your freezer to absorb any odors. Replace the baking soda every 3 months.

Toilets can get some nasty odors. Pour in some bleach and swish the bowl with your toilet brush to keep it odor free once or twice a week.

Sprinkle baking soda on your carpet and let it stand overnight. Next day just vacuum it up and it will smell fresher.

In stinky shoes like sneakers place in each shoe a fabric softener sheet that has baking soda in it to absorb the odors.

DEGREASER

To clean greasy, grimy hands pour some olive oil over them and rub oil into hands. Take some paper towels and wipe off the gook. If they aren't clean yet, simply repeat the process until are. Then to remove the olive oil run some very warm water over your hands and dry hands with a paper towel.

Coco-cola will degrease your laundry. Add 1 can to a load of greasy laundry and launder as you normally would.

To cut grease- simply add white distilled vinegar to any cheap liquid dish detergent.

Make a hand cleaning paste by mixing corn meal and apple cider vinegar.

CLOTHES DETERGENT BOOSTER

Get your clothes white without bleach by using 1/2 cup plain powdered dishwasher detergent and 1/2 cup baking soda to 1 cup laundry detergent per load of clothes.

DRAIN CLEANERS

All you need to clean every drain in your house is baking soda and white vinegar. Run hot water down the drain and pour in some baking soda, then some vinegar. It will bubble up. When it has stopped bubbling up, rinse with some more hot water. You won't have any clogs if you do this once every week. Use 1/2 cup each.

Use 1/2 cup Dawn liquid dish detergent poured down your kitchen drain once a week or month depending upon how much grease you have and flush with very hot water.

If you have a clog pour the Dawn in and let it sit for half an hour then flush with very hot water.

This is a plumber's tip: squirt some liquid dish detergent down your drain. Let sit for half an hour, flush with hot water; This will keep your drains clog-free. He said this would cut plumbing bills in half if people would just do this once a week.

Pour 2 cups boiling water down a clogged drain. Mix 1/8 cup of salt, 1/2 cup of baking soda, and 1/2 cup vinegar and pour down the clogged drain. Finish by pouring 2 more cups boiling water down the drain. Your clog should be gone.

LEMON OIL FURNITURE POLISH

Mix 10 drops lemon oil, 2 Tbsp. lemon juice, and 1/4 cup olive oil. Keep in a capped bottle and use to dust with. Use a soft clean cloth.

Mix 1 tsp. lemon oil to 1/2 cup mineral oil and keep in a capped bottle. Mix well before using and use a soft cloth.

Use 1 part fresh lemon juice to 3 parts olive oil to make a good furniture polish, will keep in an airtight container for 6 months.

Mix 3/4 cup olive oil, 20 drops lemon oil, (or lime oil or orange oil) and 1/2 cup vinegar, store in a capped bottle and use as needed to polish your furniture or your cabinets.

GLASS OR WINDOW CLEANER

To a 1 qt. spray bottle, add 2 Tbsp. distilled vinegar, 1 cup water, 1 tsp. rubbing alcohol. Shake to mix and use to clean any glass.

Barbasol regular shaving cream will defog mirrors for up to a week. Wipe it on with a cloth and then wipe it off with a lint-free cloth.

In a 2 qt. spray bottle put 1 qt. club soda and 1/2 cup Parson's clear ammonia, non-sudsing type. Mix and apply to windows and squeegee off Club soda alone with clean glass.

Mix 2 parts white vinegar to 1 part water to clean windows.

GNAT OR FRUITFLY KILLER

Fill a small jar with 1 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar and some water. Let it sit on the countertop and they will go for it and drown.

JAR OPENER

Put on rubber gloves and it is easy to open jars.

Put a wide rubber band around the lid of the jar and you can open it easily. You can cut off the wrist area of a rubber glove and use it for a wide rubber band.

JEWELRY POLISH

Use white toothpaste to polish silver jewelry. Use a soft brush. Rinse and dry.

Put a denture tablet in a small container of water and soak your jewelry in it to clean it.

Vinegar and salt will clean off the green patina that gets on jewelry.

In a baking pan cover the bottom of it with aluminum foil. Sprinkle in 2 Tbsp. baking soda and pour boiling water over this. Mix. Lay your silver in the pan and it cleans almost magically right before your eyes.

CLEANING MICROWAVE OVEN

Put a damp hand towel in the microwave oven and let it run on high for 2 minutes. It will create enough hot steam to wipe down the oven. The towel will be very hot so be careful if you use it to clean with. Wear oven mitts so you don't get burned.

HOW TO RID ODORS FROM HANDS & BREATH

If you handle garlic or onions to remove the odors wash hands with soap and water. Then take some cheesecloth and fill it with coffee beans and tie it with a rubber band. Rub this bag of coffee beans over your hands. This will last for 6 months and then you should discard it and make a new one.

For garlic or onion breath you can chew on a coffee bean. Or eat some fresh parsley sprigs.

Wash hands with baking soda to remove odors, or rub hands with a freshly sliced lemon half. Squirt some of the lemon juice on the hands and rub it in, then wash hands as you normally would to remove odors.

Wash odors off hands by holding any piece of stainless steel in your hands at same time as you wash hands underneath running water. Works every time!

PRE-STAIN TREATMENT

Make your own pre-stain treatment a whole lot cheaper than what you can buy by pouring some liquid detergent in a heavy duty spray bottle. Use it to spot treat your clothes. Dawn liquid detergent is a good grease cutter.

ROACH REPELLANT

Catnip repels roach bugs as effectively as DEET, the ingredient in most bug sprays. It is more environmentally friendly, too. Catnip will not kill roaches; it only repels them.

NEED A SCRAPER OR A SCRUBBER

Use old plastic credit cards as a scraper for removing burned on foods or to get stuck things off.

Use empty onion bags as scrubbers for Teflon pots and pans.

SCUFF MARKS

Mayonnaise will remove scuff marks.

WD-40 will remove scuff marks.

Erasers can be used to erase scuff marks on floors.

Turpentine will remove scuff marks.

SHOE CLEANER & DEODORIZER

Mix 5 drops tea tree oil and 5 drops lavender oil with 1 Tbsp. cornstarch or baking soda. Sprinkle some in shoes to deodorize them.

Use a baby wipe or a Wet-One to clean off dirty shoes.

Use a coffee filter and some Vaseline petroleum jelly or furniture polish to shine your shoes in a hurry.

Shoes can be shined with a banana peel. You have to clean off the mess with a cloth.

Choose a Scuff cover shoe polish to give you better coverage when buying a polish for shoes. It also shines better.

To remove shoe polish on white shoes just use plain rubbing alcohol. On colored areas mix 1 part rubbing alcohol to 2 parts water and put in a spray bottle.

EGG & CHEESE SLICERS

Use a cheese slicer on vegetables.

Use an egg slicer to slice softer fruits like strawberries, bananas, kiwifruit, or mushrooms.

WORK OR PAINT SMOCK

Use a large garbage bag as strong as you can find. Cut out a place in the middle for your head and one place on each side for your arms to go through. Slip it on and you have a smock to paint in or work in without messing up your clothes.

BAR SOAP PIECES

When your bar soap gets down to that last small piece, save it in a plastic heavy duty zip bag. When you get enough small pieces saved, microwave it for a couple minutes to make soap pliable. Mash it together inside the bag to form one bar of soap. When cool remove and use.

Save your little pieces of bar soap in a liquid hand soap bottle with some water in it. Shake it up and use it as liquid hand soap. I make my own hand soap by diluting Joy liquid Antibacterial soap with water in a pump bottle.

Wax cartons make good soap molds if you like to make your own soap. You can melt bar soap and add your own essential oil to create your own fragrances. Pour the hot soap in the wax cartons and let harden. Remove and use.

To make a good pumice soap mix some sugar and liquid soap such as Dawn to cut greasy grime, then wash hands as you would normally.

SOAP SCUM

Use your used dryer sheets to wipe soap scum off your shower doors.

TURN A SOCK INTO A HEATING PAD

Here is a use for those single socks we all have around. Fill one with long grain rice or dried beans and tie a knot in the end of the sock or sew it up on end; Microwave for 2 min. whenever you need a heating pad for a sore neck, back, etc.

Use old socks to dust with as a mitten over your hand.

Insert your hand into one and use it to wash your dishes.

Make puppets out of old socks.

Use old socks to wash or wax cars.

Use old socks to scrub the bathroom.

SPRAY STARCH

In a spray bottle put 2 cups water and 4 Tbsp. cornstarch. Shake to mix. Use this to starch any item of clothing you normally would put starch on. You can use more corn starch in the recipe if you like a heavier starch or less if you like it less starchy. Iron clothes at once after they have been spray starched.

BREAKING THE STATIC CHARGE IN A ROOM

If your floors have static electricity in them and you get a shock sometimes from touching other people or objects in the room, simply set a bowl of water someplace on the carpet in that room and it will break the static charge.

DO YOUR CAR TIRES GET STUCK IN WINTER?

Fill a large coffee can with kitty litter and keep it in your car's trunk during winter months. If your car gets stuck in the mud or

snow you can sprinkle it on the ground around your tires and get out of the rut.

TOILET BOWL CLEANER

Use a can of soft drink to clean your toilet bowl. Let stand for 20 min. Brush and flush.

Put 2 denture tablets in the bowl. Let stand 5 min. Brush and flush.

Put 2 Tbsp. Tang in toilet bowl. Let stand 20 min. Brush and flush.

Pour 2 cups white vinegar in toilet bowl and let it sit overnight to remove waterline marks.

UPHOLSTERY AND CARPET SPOT CLEANER

Never pay those high prices again for spot cleaners when Barbasol regular shaving cream can be squirted on the area and cleaned with a brush or sponge. Let it dry completely, then vacuum up any residue or wipe off with a clean, damp sponge.

WATERMARKS OR RINGS ON FURNITURE

Use butter or real mayonnaise or ashes from cigarettes to get rid of the watermarks on furniture. Rub with the grain using a soft cloth.

Use plain white toothpaste rubbed into the spot using a soft, clean cloth.

WINE STAINS

If you or someone else spills red wine on something, pour some white wine over it or else use club soda over it. Blot up the stain,

NEVER rub it. Use a clean white cloth to blot up the stain until it is gone.

WOBBY LEGS ON FURNITURE

On the uneven leg hot glue a button that blends in to the color to make it even.

Put a thumb tack on the leg that is uneven to stop the wobbling.

BASIC WOOD CLEANER

Mix together 1/4 cup white distilled vinegar, 1/4 cup water, 1/2 tsp. liquid soap, a few drops of olive oil, and 5 drops of either lemon or orange essential oil. Use to clean wood.

Murphy's Oil Soap and Scott's Liquid Gold are products you can purchase to clean wood.

WRINKLE REMOVER FOR CLOTHES

Take a spray bottle full of water with a fine mist.

Hang your clothes up as soon as the dryer stops. If your clothes are wrinkled, spray them with the fine mist of water and let them hang on a hanger until dry. Wrinkles usually fall out when dry.

You can spray on equal parts white vinegar and water if the wrinkles are very bad.

UNEXPECTED COMPANY COMING

Always keep a large laundry basket where you can pick up things laying around. Concentrate on the living room, kitchen, and bathroom. Rake all the things that appear to clutter these rooms in the basket and put the basket in a closet until company leaves. If you have dirty dishes either put them in your

dishwasher or into your sink and cover sink with a large cutting board. Wipe off kitchen and bathroom countertops. Close door or curtain to the tub area. Close doors to other rooms in your home and don't worry about them for the time being.

Keep some hor d'oeuvres preparations always on hand in the pantry, such as, black olives, mushrooms, pesto sauce, sundried tomato pesto, a variety of cookies and crackers, cheese spread, devilled ham, etc. that you can fix quickly for unexpected guests.

MORE HINTS:

Relax and enjoy your company!

Are flies or bees bothering you? Spray them with hairspray and they will take a quick dive.

Sealed envelopes - Put in the freezer for a few hours, and then slide a knife under the flap. The envelope can then be resealed.

Use Empty toilet paper roll to store appliance cords in. It keeps them neat and you can write on the roll what appliance it belongs to.

For icy door steps in freezing temperatures: get warm water and put Dawn dishwashing liquid in it. Pour it all over the steps. They won't refreeze.

Crayon marks on walls? This worked wonderfully! A damp rag, dipped in baking soda- Comes off with little effort (elbow grease that is!).

Permanent marker on appliances/counter tops (like store receipt BLUE!) Use rubbing alcohol on a paper towel.

Whenever I purchase a box of S.O.S Pads, I immediately take a pair of scissors and cut each pad into halves. After years of having to throw away rusted and unused and smelly pads, I finally decided that this would be much more economical. And now a box of S.O.S pads last me indefinitely! In fact, I have noticed that the scissors get sharpened this way!

Opening brand new jars can be a feat in itself. Well, I have found a way to make it the easiest thing to do. Instead of banging a jar of jam, pickles, etc., with a knife until it loosens up, I simply reach into the drawer and pull out the handy nutcracker. It adjusts to the size of the jar and I simply give it a good twist and off pops the lid!

Blood stains on clothes? Not to worry! Just pour a little peroxide on a cloth and proceed to wipe off every drop of blood. Works every time!

Use vertical strokes when washing windows outside and horizontal for inside windows. This way you can tell which side has the streaks. Straight vinegar will get outside windows really clean. Don't wash windows on a sunny day. They will dry too quickly and will probably streak.

Spray a bit of perfume on the light bulb in any room to create a lovely light scent in each room when the light is turned on.

Use either a pink or amber colored light bulb in your lamps to create a romantic ambience.

Place fabric softener sheets in dresser drawers and your clothes will smell freshly washed for weeks to come. You can also do this with towels and linen.

Candles will last a lot longer if placed in the freezer for at least 3 hours prior to burning.

To clean artificial flowers, pour some salt into a paper bag and add the flowers. Shake vigorously as the salt will absorb all the dust and dirt and leave your artificial flowers looking like new! Works like a charm!

MORE GREAT HINTS:

1. Stuff a miniature marshmallow in the bottom of a sugar cone to prevent ice cream drips.
2. Use a meat baster to "squeeze" your pancake batter onto the hot griddle and you'll get perfectly shaped pancakes every time.
3. To keep potatoes from budding, place an apple in the bag with the potatoes.
4. To prevent egg shells from cracking, add a pinch of salt to the water before hard-boiling.
5. Run your hands under cold water before pressing Rice Krispies treats in the pan and the marshmallow won't stick to your fingers.

6. To get the most juice out of fresh lemons, bring them to room temperature and roll them under your palm against the kitchen counter before squeezing. Or microwave lemons for one minute to get maximum juice out of them.
7. To easily remove burnt on food from your skillet, simply add a drop or two of dish soap and enough water to cover bottom of pan, and bring to a boil on stovetop.
8. Spray your Tupperware with nonstick cooking spray before pouring in tomato based sauces and there won't be any stains.
9. When a cake recipe calls for flouring the baking pan, use a bit of the dry cake mix instead and there won't be any white mess on the outside of the cake.
10. If you accidentally over-salt a dish while it's still cooking, drop in a peeled potato and it will absorb the excess salt for an instant "fix me up."
11. Wrap celery in aluminum foil when putting in the refrigerator and it will keep for weeks.
12. Brush some beaten egg white over pie crust before baking to yield a beautiful glossy finish.
13. Place a slice of apple in hardened brown sugar to soften it.
14. When boiling corn on the cob, add a pinch of sugar to help bring out the corn's natural sweetness.
15. To determine whether an egg is fresh, immerse it in a pan of cool, salted water. If it sinks, it is fresh, but if it rises to the surface- it is no good.

16. HEADACHE REMEDY:

2 aspirin

1 Tbsp. vinegar

1 lemon wedge

2 oz Club Soda

Drop both aspirin in a glass and stir in the vinegar until aspirins are dissolved. Add Club Soda and squeeze the wedge of lemon juice into it. Stir well; Drink it to relieve a headache

ANOTHER HEADACHE REMEDY:

Take a lime, cut it in half and rub it on your forehead. The throbbing will go away.

17. Don't throw out all that leftover wine: Freeze into ice cubes for future use in casseroles and sauces.

18. If you have a problem opening jars: Try using latex dishwashing gloves. They give a non-slip grip that makes opening jars easy.

19. Potatoes will take food stains off your fingers. Just slice and rub raw potato on the stains and rinse with water.

20. To get rid of itch from mosquito bites, try applying soap on the area and you will experience instant relief.

21. Ants, ants, ants everywhere ... Well, they are said to never cross a chalk line. So get your chalk out and draw a line on the floor or wherever ants tend to march. See for yourself.

22. Use air-freshener to clean mirrors. It does a good job and better still, leaves a lovely smell to the shine.

23. When you get a splinter, reach for the scotch tape before resorting to tweezers or a needle. Simply put the scotch tape over the splinter, then pull it off. Scotch tape removes most splinters painlessly and easily.

24. Now look what you can do with Alka Seltzer. Clean a toilet. Drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets; wait twenty minutes, brush and flush. The citric acid and effervescent action clean vitreous China.

25. Clean a vase. To remove a stain from the bottom of a glass vase or cruet, fill with water and drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets.

26. Polish jewelry. Drop two Alka Seltzer tablets into a glass of water and immerse the jewelry for two minutes.

27. Clean a thermos bottle. Fill the bottle with water, drop in four Alka Seltzer tablets, and let soak for an hour (or longer, if necessary).

28. Unclog a drain. Clear the sink drain by dropping three Alka Seltzer tablets down the drain followed by a cup of Heinz White Vinegar. Let set for 5 min. and flush the drain with very hot water.