



Handy Answers to Everyday Household Problems

Clothing Stains

Soaking fabric in vinegar removes spots from grass, coffee, tea, fruits and berries (and vinegar offers the added benefit of softening laundry by neutralizing alkali).

Dirty Glass

Out of paper towels? Use coffee filters or newspaper, neither of which leaves lint behind. Out of glass cleaner? Use vinegar instead.

Scuffs on Painted Surfaces

Remove these using a damp sponge sprinkled with baking soda. Buff lightly, then rinse away the powdery residue.

Bad Smelling Garbage Disposal

Use white vinegar to make ice cubes, then run them through the disposal. Follow with cool water.

Stained Stainless Steel

A solution of four tablespoons of baking soda in one quart of water gets tough spots out.

Gum in Upholstery

Saturate the area with heated vinegar to dissolve the gum.

Dusty Lampshades

A lint remover rolled slowly up and down the surface will take away dirt without muddying the shade as a sponge might.

Avoid Wax Sticking to Candle Holders

Rub the surfaces of clean holders with olive oil before putting in the candles.

Pet Hair

Dryer sheets remove dog and cat hair from many kinds of upholstery. Duct tape rolled sticky-side-out around your hand can act as a lint roller substitute.

Melted Wax in Upholstery

Press a Ziplock bag full of ice on the area until the wax freezes then crack it and brush it away.

Garage Oil and Grease Spots

Use a flour sifter to spread baking soda evenly over spills then scrub them away with a wet brush.

Dingy Cutting Board

Rub the flat surface of a lemon wedge over a butcher block to disinfect or over a plastic board to lighten stains.