

## Keeping it Clean: Cleaning Supplies<sup>1</sup>

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You do not have to buy expensive cleaning supplies. You can clean your home with common household ingredients.

### Equipment Needed for Cleaning

- Rags, use soft material from worn-out clothing.  
Note: Remove buttons, zippers, and anything that will scratch.
- Measuring cup.
- Jars for mixing and/or storage. These may be containers that you saved such as mayonnaise or pickle jars. Do not use containers children associate with food.
- Broom.
- Vacuum cleaner (if you have carpets).
- Mop.

### Supplies

- Liquid bleach
- Vinegar

- Baking Soda
- Liquid soap/detergent
- Ammonia
- Water

### Inexpensive Cleaners You Can Make

#### Sanitizing Solution

Use for hard surfaces like cutting boards, counters, toys, doorknobs, cribs, trashcans, and mop heads.

- 3 Tablespoons Liquid Bleach
- 1 Tablespoon Liquid Soap, detergent
- 1 Gallon of Water

Wipe the surface and let stand for 2 minutes. Rinse and air dry.

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### Disinfecting Solution

For cleaning toilet bowls, scrubbing grout in tile and tub areas, trashcans and other surfaces you need to disinfect.

- 3/4 Cup of Household Bleach
- 1 Teaspoon Liquid Soap
- 1 Gallon of Water

Wipe the surface and let stand for 2 minutes. Rinse and wipe or air dry.

### Everyday Household Cleaner

- 2 Tablespoons Liquid Detergent/soap
- 2 Tablespoons Ammonia
- 1 Quart of Water

Use for all general cleaning jobs.

### Window Cleaner

- 2 Tablespoons of Vinegar
- 1 Quart of Water

Place contents in a large spray bottle for easier usage. Use crumpled up newspaper to shine the windows.

### Refrigerator Cleaner

- 2 Tablespoons Baking Soda
- 1 Quart Warm Water

Wash the inside thoroughly using the above recipe (soap leaves an odor—do not use), including the shelves and drawers. Rub hard-to-clean spots with dry baking soda.

### Mildew Cleaner

- 3/4 Cup Chlorine Bleach
- 1 Gallon Water

Mix and put in a spray container or apply with a brush. Apply to mildewed area, let stand for 5 minutes and rise with clear water.

### Remember

Before you buy special cleaners try making your own. They work well, are safe to use and save you money. If you want to buy a cleaner, find one that does many jobs.

With all cleaning products remember:

- Its best to mix just what you need and use it all up.
- Be sure that the container has a label. If you make your own always label it.
- Never put cleaners in food containers.
  - Store cleaning solutions where children cannot get them.

**Never mix two or more cleaning products such as bleach, ammonia, toilet bowl cleaners, rust removers or oven cleaners.**