

All-purpose cleaners

for cleaning countertops, floors, walls, carpet and upholstery

- Dissolve 4 tablespoons of baking soda in one quart of warm water.
- Add 1/2 cup vinegar to warm water (between 1 cup and 1 quart).
- Combine 1/4 cup white distilled vinegar, 1/2 teaspoon liquid soap and 3/4 cup warm water. Shake to blend. For really big jobs, combine 1/4 cup liquid soap, 1/2 cup white distilled vinegar and 2 gallons of warm water in a pail and stir to blend.

Mix ingredients for each recipe in a spray bottle.



Glass cleaner

Combine 1 quart warm water with 1/4 cup white vinegar or 2 tablespoons lemon juice (use both vinegar and lemon if you want the cleaning abilities of vinegar with the scent of lemon).

Mix ingredients and store in a spray bottle. For a pleasant scent, add a drop or two of essential oil.



Floor cleaners

Linoleum: Damp mop using 1/4 cup vegetable-oil-based liquid soap in 2 gallons warm water.

Vinyl: Damp mop using 1 cup vinegar in 2 gallons warm water.

No-wax floors: Add 1/2 cup vinegar to 2 tablespoons liquid soap in 1 gallon of hot water. Mix, mop and wipe clean.

Tile: Mix 1 cup vinegar with 1 gallon hot water. Mix, mop and wipe clean.

Wood floors:

- For unvarnished floors, damp mop with mild vegetable-oil soap. Or try 1/4 cup liquid vegetable oil-based soap, 1/2 teaspoon glycerin, 1/4 cup white distilled vinegar and 2 gallons warm water.
- For varnished floors, or no-wax floors such as polyurethane or Swedish finishes, damp mop using 1 part vinegar to 10 parts water.



Tub and tile cleaner

1 2/3 cups baking soda
1/2 cup liquid soap
2 tablespoons vinegar
1/2 cup water
a few drops essential oil (optional)

Mix soda and soap. Add water, then add vinegar. Store in a squirt-top bottle and shake before using. Rinse thoroughly to avoid leaving a residue.

