

GREEN YARDS AND HEALTHY HOMES RECIPES



WEED KILLER

2 cups vinegar; ¼ tablespoon dishwashing liquid

Directions:

Add ¼ tablespoon dishwashing liquid to a 16 oz. spray bottle. Then add two cups vinegar. Spray directly onto weeds on a sunny day. Weeds should be dead within 24 hours. If not, do another application on a sunny day.

ALL PURPOSE CLEANING SPRAY

8 oz. white distilled vinegar; 8 oz. water; 15-20 drops essential oil for fragrance

Directions:

Fill a 16 oz. spray bottle with equal amounts white distilled vinegar and water. Add 15-20 drops of essential oil of choice. Spray directly onto surfaces and wipe clean.

BATHROOM MOLD

hydrogen peroxide (3%); water

Directions:

Mix one part hydrogen peroxide (3%) with two parts water in a spray bottle and spray on areas with mold. Wait at least one hour before rinsing or using shower.

FURNITURE POLISH

2 teaspoons light olive oil; 20 drops - lemon essential oil; ¼ cup white distilled vinegar; water

Directions:

Put 2 teaspoons of olive oil in a 16 oz. spray bottle. Add 20 drops of lemon oil. Add ¼ cup white distilled vinegar. Fill the rest of the bottle with water. Spray on rag or directly onto furniture. Wipe dry immediately.

INSIDE RECIPES

SOAP SCUM

vinegar and liquid dish soap

Directions:

Heat up some vinegar (1 cup in the microwave for 2 minutes). Then pour it in your spray bottle, add an equal amount of liquid dish soap and shake gently. This is for a one time use, so use ½ cup if you need less. Spray on surface and let sit for two hours (overnight for tough stains). Wipe off with warm water and a sponge.

TOILET BOWL CLEANER

1 cup (enough for 1 use); ½ cup baking soda; 10 drops tea-tree essential oil; ½ cup white vinegar

Directions:

This recipe harnesses baking soda's gentle abrasiveness, vinegar's acidity and the stain-lifting power of the fizz created by mixing the two, plus tea-tree oil's antibacterial capabilities. Pour baking soda into the toilet bowl, add oil, then vinegar - in that order. Let water effervesce for several minutes, then scrub bowl with brush. Flush.

DRAIN CLEANER

2 cups baking soda; 4 cups boiling water; 1 cup white vinegar

Directions:

Pour 1 cup baking soda down drain. Pour 2 cups boiling water down drain. Wait a few minutes as baking soda mixed with boiling water dissolves the gunk in the pipe. Pour remaining 1 cup of baking soda down the drain and then 1 cup of white vinegar and plug the drain immediately (if double sink, plug both drains). You'll hear sizzling and see bubbles foaming up. Wait until bubbles die down and add remaining boiling water. Repeat process if necessary.

HOMEMADE DISHWASHER SOAP (soft water recipe)

1/2 cup borax; 1/2 cup washing soda; 1/4 cup food grade citric acid

** for hard water, try increasing the amount of borax or add 1/4 cup course kosher salt, not regular salt!*

Directions:

Combine ingredients and use sparingly. Use only about 1 to 1 1/2 tsp. per load. (For hard water, you may need more.) Keep in a handy container near your appliance.

KITCHEN CLEANSER

baking soda and an essential oil for fragrance

Directions:

Fill a plastic flip-top shaker bottle half full with baking soda. Add 15-20 drops of pure essential lemon (or lime) oil. Stir. Fill the shaker to the top with more baking soda. Put the lid on and shake to mix. Shake onto surfaces then with a damp sponge. Rinse well.

OUTSIDE RECIPES

FUNGICIDE

1 teaspoon baking soda; 16 oz. water; ¼ teaspoon liquid soap

Directions:

Common baking soda is a natural fungicide. Mix 1 teaspoon of baking soda with 16 oz. of water. Add ¼ teaspoon of liquid soap and thoroughly blend the mix. Apply it weekly to all parts of the plant to control powdery mildew and black spot. Monitor plants for any cellular damage from the detergent.

PESTICIDE INSECTICIDAL SOAP

1 teaspoon dishwashing liquid; 4 cups water

Directions:

Mix 1 teaspoon dishwashing liquid, not a detergent, in 4 cups of water. You only need about 1 percent soap solution to be effective and you do not need oil or anything else.

What makes the insecticidal soap effective is that the fatty acids from the animal fats the soap is made from (which is why you need real soap and not a detergent) dissolve the target insect's exoskeleton. Spray the plant completely, including the stem and even the underside of the leaves as soon as you see problem bugs. Try not to wait to see if the problem resolves itself or you could end up with a full infestation, which is much harder to fix.

Other Outdoor Resources: Many natural pesticide recipes are targeted to a specific insect. So the following websites have many recipes you could make depending on the insect species of concern, and/or the plant getting affected.

Natural Homemade Pesticides: Recipes and Tips - <http://tipnut.com/natural-pesticides/>

Natural Pesticidal and Fungicidal Recipes: <http://faq.gardenweb.com/faq/lists/organic/2002081329023823.html>