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Green Clean

Commercial cleaners do an excellent job of cleaning and disinfecting, but sometimes you may want a greener and economical alternative. White distilled vinegar is an effective cleaner that may eliminate most mold, bacteria, and germs, due to its high acidity. In addition, white distilled vinegar helps one avoid using harsh chemicals. Some uses of white distilled vinegar include, but are not limited to:

Shine chrome sink fixtures that have a lime buildup by using a paste made of 2 tablespoons baking soda and 1 teaspoon white distilled vinegar.

Make a scouring cleanser by combining 1/4 cup baking soda, 1 tablespoon liquid soap, and enough white distilled vinegar to give it a thick, but creamy texture.

Clean and deodorize a drain or garbage disposal by pouring in 1 cup baking soda and one cup hot white distilled vinegar. Let the mixture sit for approximately 5 minutes and then run hot water down the drain.

Remove soap, mineral, grease, and odors from the dishwasher by pouring a cup of white distilled vinegar inside the empty machine and running it through a whole cycle every couple of weeks.

To prevent hard water buildup on glassware, spray clean glasses with full-strength white distilled vinegar, rinse with hot water, and air or towel dry.

Get rid of lime deposits in tea kettles and cups by soaking in white distilled vinegar and scrubbing with baking soda. To enhance effectiveness, heat vinegar and soak for an extended period of time.

Remove mineral deposits from coffee makers with white distilled vinegar. Fill the water reservoir with 1 cup or more of white distilled vinegar and run it through a whole cycle. Run it once or twice more with plain water to rinse clean. (Review the owners' manual first)

Remove smells and light stains on plastic food containers by soaking them in white distilled vinegar.

Discourage ants by spraying undiluted white distilled vinegar outside doorways and windowsills, around appliances, and wherever you find the pests entering.

Get rid of fruit flies by setting out a small dish of undiluted white distilled vinegar or apple cider vinegar. Some fruit flies may collect on the exterior of the glass. Place a large container over the whole glass until all of the flies have taken their final flight.

Get rid of calcium deposits on faucets and showerheads by soaking a cloth or paper towel in white distilled vinegar and wrapping the area tightly. Keep the area wrapped for a couple of hours or overnight. Shine by scrubbing faucets with a solution of 1 part baking soda to 4 parts white distilled vinegar. For intense mineral deposits, tie a plastic or sandwich bag containing white distilled vinegar around it. Leave the area soaking for two or three hours. Scrub with baking soda to remove any remaining residue.

Shine no-wax vinyl or linoleum floor by cleansing with a solution of one cup white distilled vinegar for every gallon of water.

Clean carpet stains with a paste of 2 tablespoons white distilled vinegar and 1/4 cup or baking soda. Scrub the carpet stain and let dry. Vacuum up the residue the next day. (Spot test on a small portion first)

Remove white water rings from wood with a solution of equal parts white distilled vinegar and vegetable oil. Rub with the grain. DO NOT use with waxed wood. It can ruin the finish and leave a cloudy mark.

Avoid using white distilled vinegar on marble. The acid in the vinegar can dull and damage the surface

Deodorize mattresses by lightly spraying white distilled vinegar and water solution on the mattress and then sprinkle with baking soda. Let the mixture dry. Remove the mixture by sweeping it off the bed or vacuuming the residue.