

Good Uses with Household Stuff:

Irish Spring Bar Soap:

Eliminate odors in dirty laundry.

Place a wrapped bar of soap at the bottom of a laundry bag or hamper.

Freshen the air in your dresser drawers or closet, by placing a wrapped bar of Irish Spring soap in the drawer or / and closet to keep them smelling fresh.

Fabric Softener Sheets:

Put a sheet in each dresser drawer to freshen up the drawer, same goes for suitcases.

Use fabric softener sheets for an air freshener.

Put one behind curtains, under chairs, etc.

Help eliminate odors by placing a sheet in the bottom of the trash can, laundry bag or hamper.

And help eliminate odor by putting fabric softener sheets in shoes.

Use a fabric softener sheet in new books will keep them smelling fresh, and can cut down the musty paper smell of used or old books.

To eliminate static shock when you walk across your carpet, spray the carpet with a liquid fabric softener solution.

Dilute 1 cup softener with 2 1/2 quarts (2.5 liters) water; fill a spray bottle and lightly spritz the carpet.

Take care not to saturate it and damage the carpet backing.

Spray in the evening and let the carpet dry overnight before walking on it.

The effect should last for several weeks.

To keep bugs away:

Put some fabric softener sheets under lawn furniture to repel bees from your skin.

You can also rub a sheet directly on your bare skin to discourage would be buggers from leaving their mark.

Tennis Balls:

Include a couple of tennis balls with each dryer load, will cut drying time by 25% - 50%.

Tennis balls also fluffs the clothes to a delicate softness, especially towels.

A couple of tennis balls will also fluff up pillows, comforters, etc.

To speed drying time of bulky items and jeans, add a dry towel to the wet clothing in the dryer.

The towel will help absorb some of the excess moisture.

Windex:

Use Windex and a damp cloth to keep patent leather clean and shiny.

Pepper:

Add a teaspoon of pepper to the wash load.

Pepper keeps bright colors bright and prevents them from running too.

Black pepper can also keep the squirrels from digging in your garden because of the sting of the pepper.

Use **Cayenne Pepper** to keep raccoons away from your home and garden.

Fill a one gallon container with water and then add one container of pepper.

Stir the mixture, and then add a few drops of liquid dish soap.

This will help the repellent stay where you spray it.

Fill a spray bottle with the solution and keep the rest in the refrigerator.

Spray the pepper repellent around your plants if you have a raccoon trying to get your plants and vegetables, or spray it around the perimeters of your yard and next to trash carts or cans.

The pepper will lose its scent after a few days, so re-spray as necessary.

You can also use Epsom salt as a raccoon repellent.

Scroll down for "Epsom Salt" for more info.

Salt:

Stainless steel can be cleaned by rubbing it with a gritty paste of 2 tablespoons of salt mixed with lemon juice.

Rinse well and pat dry with a soft cloth.

Rub 2 to 3 tablespoons of salt onto the stains inside your glass vases, and then scrub clean with a damp bristle brush.

Gargle with warm salt water ($\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt to one cup water) to relieve a sore throat.

Sprinkle salt on carpets to dry out muddy footprints before vacuuming.

When silk flowers get dusty, put them in a paper bag with several tablespoons of salt and shake gently for 2 minutes to clean them.

Mix a tablespoon of salt into the water of a vase of cut flowers to keep them fresh longer.

To kill unwanted weeds growing in your driveway or between bricks and stones, pour boiling salt water over them.

Refresh household sponges by soaking them in cold salt water for 10 minutes.

To help break the Smoking Habit:

Lick a little salt with the tip of your tongue whenever you feel the urge to to smoke. This is said to break the habit within a month.

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Epsom Salt:

Use Epsom salt to keep raccoons away.

To deter raccoons using Epsom salt, sprinkle Epsom salt around and inside your garden.

The raccoons will avoid your garden and most likely will not return.

However, you will need to reapply every time it rains or about every 2 weeks without rain.

Also, sprinkle Epsom salt on and around your trash carts or cans to keep the raccoons away.

It is best to keep your dog and / or cat away from the areas where you sprinkle the Epsom salt.

Don't let your dog eat Epsom salt or drink water that has Epsom salt in it, because it can disrupt their digestive system.

Because of the magnesium, it can cause extreme diarrhea and dehydration.

Epsom salts can be used on dogs (External Use Only).

Apply it to specific areas of the body.

But don't allow your dog to be immersed in a full bath.

Epsom salt should never be administered without first consulting your veterinarian.

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Coffee Grounds:

To Eliminate Odors:

Coffee grounds contain nitrogen, which helps eliminate a foul smelling sulfur gas from the air when it's combined with carbon.

In other words, coffee grounds can help absorb and eliminate odors.

Place a bowl of coffee grounds in your fridge or freezer to neutralize odors. You can even keep coffee grounds by the sink and use them to scrub your hands after chopping garlic or onions.

The grounds will help remove the smell from your hands.

To Tenderize meat:

Meat contains muscle fibers and proteins that can give it a tough consistency.

Tenderizing meat helps break them down, resulting in a softer texture.

Salt, enzymes and acids are three natural types of meat tenderizers.

Coffee contains natural acids and enzymes, making it especially effective at tenderizing meat.

The acidic nature of coffee can also help enhance the flavor of meat.

Simply add used coffee grounds to your favorite dry-rub recipe and apply the rub to the meat two hours before cooking.

The grounds will get cooked onto the meat and form a dark, crispy crust.

To help your Hair:

The abrasive texture of coffee grounds will help strip oils and buildup from your hair.

Pile them on in the shower or, for a much less messy strategy, just add some grounds to your shampoo or conditioner. (*Best for those with dark hair as coffee can also darken hair.*)

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To Exfoliate your Skin:

The coarse particles in coffee grounds work as an exfoliating agent to help remove dirt and dead cells from the skin. Mix ½ cup of used coffee grounds with 2 tablespoons of olive oil or coconut oil.

Massage all over body while standing in the shower.

Leave on for 10 minutes before showering.

This mixture will exfoliate your skin and may also help to reduce the appearance of cellulite.

Mix a teaspoon of used coffee grounds into your facial mask.

It will exfoliate the skin and the caffeine will smooth and tighten.

Coffee grounds can also be mixed with a small amount of honey and used as an exfoliating lip scrub.

What's more, the caffeine in coffee grounds has potent antioxidant properties that can help protect the skin from sun damage.

It can also increase blood flow, which aids in overall skin health.

To Clean the Drains:

Pour used coffee grounds down the sink or bathtub drain, followed by 3 drops of dish soap and a pot of boiling water.

This will clean and clear the drain of clogs and built up grease.

To Fertilize your Garden:

Most soil does not contain the essential nutrients needed for optimal plant growth.

Also, as plants grow, they absorb nutrients from the soil, ultimately leaving it depleted

Thus, most gardens need to be fertilized to ensure that plants have the nourishment they need to survive.

Coffee grounds contain several key minerals for plant growth: nitrogen, calcium, potassium, iron, phosphorus, magnesium and chromium.

They may also help absorb heavy metals that can contaminate soil.

Also, coffee grounds help attract worms, which are great for your garden.

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To use coffee grounds as fertilizer:

Simply sprinkle them onto the soil surrounding your plants.

To repel bugs:

Certain compounds found in coffee, such as caffeine, can be highly toxic to insects.

Because of this, you can use coffee grounds to repel bugs.

They are effective at deterring mosquitoes, fruit flies and beetles, and they may help keep other pests away too.

To use coffee grounds as an insect and pest repellent:

Simply set out bowls of grounds or sprinkle them around outdoor seating areas.

You can also keep pests out of your garden by scattering coffee grounds around your plants.

To Repel Fleas:

When you give your dog a bath, add a tablespoon of used coffee grounds to the shampoo to help repel fleas.

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Dawn Dish Soap:

Due to its high level of surfactants, Dawn is successful at removing grease and oil stains, and food and grass stains from clothes.

You can use Dawn as a facial soap for oily skin, and to clean your hands.

Use Dawn as a multipurpose cleaner:

Use a few drops of Dawn in warm water to clean ceramic tile and no wax linoleum floors, bathroom and kitchen counters & sinks, tubs and toilets, woodwork, baseboards, shelves, etc.

Use Dawn as a lubricant on hinges, and dresser drawers will slide easier if the parts that stick are rubbed with soap.

Use Dawn for an icepack:

Fill a Ziplock bag with Dawn half full, close it, and freeze it.
The soap stays cold for a long time, and the icepack can be reused.
It will conform to the place you need an icepack.

Bread:

Use a slice of soft bread after you've swept and vacuumed the big shards of a broken glass, and use it to pat down the area to collect those tiny slivers that remain.
Wear rubber gloves; dispose of the bread in the trash when you've finished.

Cut onions without tearing:

Place a slice of bread in your mouth while cutting onions.
The bread will absorb sulfides that causes tears, or also to avoid tears, try placing a slice of bread over the handle of the knife before cutting onions.
Which ever one works best for you.

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To remove splinters and stings:

Soak a piece of bread in cool milk, press out the milk, and apply the bread to the affected area, and bind it with a band-aid or a piece of duct tape for a few hours or overnight.

To soften brown sugar, cookies, and other baked goods:

Just add a slice of bread to the sugar or baked goods and seal in a metal canister or ceramic jar.

To remove splinters and stings:

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Kitty Litter (Regular, not the clumping kind) :

To remove oil stains:

Pour kitty litter on freshly spilled oil and it will soak it right up.

Get rid of grease and oil spots in your driveway or on your garage floor:

Simply cover them with cat litter.

If the spots are fresh, the litter will soak up most of the oil right away.

To remove old stains:

Pour some paint thinner on the stain before tossing on the cat litter.

Wait 12 hours and then sweep clean.

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To prevent grease fires:

Keep away the grease fires by adding a thin layer of kitty litter on the bottom of your grill.

When you're stuck in the mud or snow:

Keep a bag of cat litter in the trunk of your car.
Pour some kitty litter in front and behind the drive tires.
It helps you gain traction and get out of the mud or snow.

Baking Soda:

To clean microwave:

Mix 2 tablespoons of baking soda and 1 cup water. high for 2 - 3 minutes.
Wipe interior with a damp cloth or paper towel.

Add to Laundry:

Boost strength of liquid detergent in the wash, by adding 1/2 cup baking soda.
It gives 'whiter' whites and 'brighter' colors.

Pretreat Stains:

Make a paste with baking soda. Mix 4 tablespoons baking soda and 1/4 cup warm water.

Work the paste with a toothbrush on the stains.

For bad stains, let the paste dry for about 2 hours before washing.

Use in the Fridge:

Place a box of baking soda in the fridge to help keep food fresh.

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Candles and Candle Wax:

To get candle wax out of cloth:

Use the dull edge of a knife to scrape off as much wax as possible.
Place several paper towels on both sides of the fabric and iron on a low setting.
Change the towels often as the wax is absorbed into them.

To remove wax from glass:

Scrape away the excess, then apply heat with a blow dryer set to medium, wiping off the wax with a rag as it softens.
Wash the area with hot, soapy water to remove residue.

To remove wax from carpets:

Scrape off excess wax. Lay a damp, lint-free white cloth over the wax and apply medium heat with an iron; the wax will adhere to the cloth.
Use rubbing alcohol to remove residue. Vacuum up the pieces before they soften.

Place your candles in the freezer overnight to prevent them from dripping.
They will also burn longer.

To make a candle fit snugly into its holder, pour hot water into the candle bowl, let it heat up a bit, and then pour the water out and stick the candle in immediately.

To predict the weather:

Just blow out a lit candle.
If the wick smolders for longer than usual, rain is on the way.
If the wick goes out quickly, look for fair weather.



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Toothpaste:

Bug Bite:

To relieve itching, cover the bite with a little toothpaste.

Burns:

To relieve the pain, run the burn under cold water and apply toothpaste to the area.

Blisters:

To dry up, apply toothpaste to the affected area.

Cold Sore:

To heal, dab a little toothpaste on the sore before bed.

Hands:

To remove tough dirt, rub your hands with a little toothpaste and rinse.

You can also use a little toothpaste to polish your nails.

Dab toothpaste on a toothbrush and brush your nails and rinse.

Other Household Tips:

You won't lose shoelaces in the wash if you string them through the buttonholes in a shirt and tie the ends together.

Dust Mop:

To clean a dust mop without the mess, slip a large paper bag over the head of the mop, secure the top, and shake so the dust falls into the bag.

Miscellaneous:

An automobile snow brush is perfect for cleaning under a refrigerator.

Pets:

Never offer your pets any food that's spoiled or moldy.

Food that's unsafe for humans is also unsafe for pets.

If your dog has a water dish outside and always knocks it over, substitute an angel food cake pan for the dish.

Put a sturdy stake through the pan's center hole and into the ground, and even a frisky dog won't be able to knock it over.

Never offer your dog or cat pork bones, chicken bones, or fish bones. These can splinter into sharp pieces and catch in their throat.
