

HOUSEHOLD & CLEANING TIPS WITH SIMPLE MATERIALS

- Spilt liquid: mop with an old newspaper before it soaks in, or spreads.
- Protect a surface from heat, when no mat available: use a thick layer of newspaper.
- To transport a plant in a bag on bus or train: wrap in newspaper to protect and absorb damp.
- Cleaning windows: (instead of a leather) damp newspaper somehow helps give a good shine.
- Protect a surface (carpet, floor or table) from scratching or dirt: use a layer of newspaper.
- Crayon marks: use toothpaste on soft cloth.
- Wet shoes: stuff with newspaper; remove & repeat regularly till dry.
- Clean inside a microwave: after a lemon has been squeezed, add to a bowl of water & heat on HIGH for 5 mins; wipe clean inside oven.
- Emergency dry shampoo: mix 1 tsp. bicarb* & 1 tsp. cornflour in a cup, sprinkle over hair, rub into scalp; then brush out (removes oiliness).
- Scuff marks on hard floors: use bicarb* to remove them.
- Grubby wall (e.g. around switches): try 'squidged up' white bread.
- Clean carpet/rug/mattress: sprinkle bicarb*; vacuum after few hours.



If newspaper is too dirty to recycle, then compost it.

BATHROOM

- Shower head: soak overnight in white vinegar.
- Grouting between tiles or stubborn tide marks on bath: mix paste of lemon juice & baking powder and clean using an old toothbrush.

KITCHEN

- Fridge, freezer or microwave: sprinkle bicarb* on damp cloth to clean.
- Kettle lime scale: remove with a cupful of white vinegar left overnight.
- Stale smell in fridge: an egg-cup of bicarb* removes it for a few weeks.
- Stop hands smelling of raw fish: rub with an already squeezed lemon.

*available in large quantities in Chinese supermarkets

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HOUSEHOLD & CLEANING TIPS WITH SIMPLE MATERIALS

BAD SMELLS

- Cigarette smoke: a little vinegar in a saucer in the room will remove the smell.
- Urine smells on pet bedding or elsewhere: spray on mix of 3 parts soda water to 1 part white vinegar; shake bedding outside, if possible.
- Any bad smells (e.g. on carpet) from pet's or baby's unwelcome fluid: sprinkle bicarb* fairly generously, leave a few hours & vacuum.



STAINS

- Tomato & perspiration: apply a tablespoon of white vinegar, leave for 30 minutes, then rinse; rub in detergent & wash on cool cycle.
- Candle wax: (e.g. carpets) chip off large lumps, then cover with damp towel & move warm iron on top; repeat until all residue soaked up.
- Fat, grease & red wine: spread on a paste from bicarb* mixed with a little water, leave for 1/2 - 2 hours (keep checking), then wash in biological detergent; or rinse wine with fizzy water.
- Biro & ink: soak biro stains in spot of milk; spray ink stains with hair spray & dab - if not gone, soak in milk, wipe with nail varnish remover.



MOTHS (make holes in clothes & carpets)

- Cedar balls (natural oils): kill moth larvae but won't protect clothing.
- Eucalyptus or bay leaves, cinnamon sticks, cloves: strong repellents.
- Fresh conkers: skins contain a mild insecticide (triterpenoid saponin).
- Disturb the eggs: vacuum, move furniture, beat with broom, brush seams & under collars.
- Once a month: clean & vacuum thoroughly, shake all clothes out.
- Cool rooms: open windows occasionally and allow air to circulate.
- Launder, dry clean or freeze clothes etc., then store in sealed bag.

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