

Low cost cleaning is easy!



Bathrooms

Before buying an expensive cleaner for your acrylic bath, vanity and laundry tub, try Sunlight soap - it works wonders! I was given this tip by a man who repairs these for a living, and he insists it is the best. Unlike other cleaners, Sunlight does not wear off the surface and take off the shine, saving you hundreds of dollars in repairs later on. I wear an old sock over my hand, foam up the soap and it works a treat.
Contributed by Jodie Kelly

I clean primarily with vinegar and bi-carb soda. It is the best chrome cleaner around, especially when using a lint free cloth. At a cost of \$1.00 - \$1.50 per 200g box, this will last several months! I keep all my 'shaker top' herb and spice jars and fill them with bi-carb, so I have one ready-to-use shaker in each room, along with a spray bottle full of vinegar. Cheap, user friendly and very effective!
Contributed by Carly P

Carpets and Floors

A trigger pack of Ajax is a diluted version of Ajax. By diluting a 750ml bottle of floor cleaner at a ratio of one to five, you make enough liquid to fill seven trigger packs!
Contributed by Susan Mitchell

I use Methylated Spirits to clean my timber flooring. It costs around \$2.50 for a bottle, compared to \$7.00 for other floor cleaners (which made the floor tacky and soon lost their shine). It really works and the floor stays clean and shiny.
Contributed by Tanya Bradford

Cars

Try this for a sparkling windscreen, headlights and grill: 3 tbsp bicarbonate soda, mixed with one cup of warm water. Wipe on windscreen, leave for a few minutes and wash off. Removes grime, mess and splattered 'hoppers' easily!
Contributed by Jan Ashe

Clothes and Accessories

Feel and look like a million dollars, with sparkling jewellery that looks as though it has been cleaned by a professional. You can clean jewellery (except pearls) in a 50:50 solution of dishwashing liquid and Windex. Soak the jewels, then clean all over gently with a baby soft toothbrush. This was recommended to me by a jeweller and people always comment on my sparkling jewellery!
Contributed by Annabel Brinkworth

I found a cheap way to wash my towels, bras and good tops in my front loading washing machine. I buy a nice cheap shampoo and use just a capful of that, instead of wool mix. My towels and clothes come out beautifully clean and soft, for just \$2.00 a bottle, and they smell wonderful!
Contributed by Roz Toscan

Freshen up your washing, especially sheets and towels, by adding a drop of tea tree or lavender oil to the final rinse. The oils are antiseptic, so kill any germs and smells great!

Dishes and Cutlery

Try using vinegar in your dishwasher instead of Rinse Aid. It is much cheaper and removes coffee stains from cups. If you add vinegar to the bottom of the machine for the final rinse, it leaves glassware sparkling.
Contributed by Carolyn Ford

General Cleaning

I use generic dishwashing detergent, Methylated Spirits, bleach and olive oil for all my cleaning needs; as well as a glass scraper, steel wool, newspaper and Eucalyptus and Lavender oils. I use them for:

Oven cleaning - Use steel wool and detergent. You may need to leave it on for a while, but it will do the trick.

Furniture polish - Use olive oil and Lavender. Apply with a soft cloth, leave for ten minutes and buff with another soft cloth or rag.

Floor washing - A small amount of detergent and methylated spirits do the job - the meths help dry the floor quickly.

Window cleaning - Use hot water and methylated spirits. Once the window is dry, polish with crumpled newspaper. The ink makes the windows sparkle.

Shower recesses - A glass scraper removes soap scum from glass without scratching. Finish with a quick wipe with a scourer and soapy water, then rinse. Remove mould by spraying with diluted bleach and rinsing after five minutes.

Cleaning toilets - Use diluted bleach. If stains are bad, use undiluted and leave for a short while before brushing.

Antiseptic cleaner - Eucalyptus is an antiseptic. Add a few drops to hot water and wipe over benches and vanities for a clean, fresh smell.

The total cost of all these ingredients is no more than \$20, and most only need replacing every year or two, with the exception of the detergent. I cannot begin to imagine the savings I have made on buying cleaning products over the last thirty years!
Contributed by Sheila Longden

Bulk Cleaning Products

Bunnings is a great place to stock up on bulk cleaners. A five litre container of Glitz Body and Hand Soap Wash costs \$18.80 which works out to just \$0.94c a time to refill your empty pump wash bottles. Glitz also makes Spray & Wipe, bleach and washing liquid in 500ml and 1 litre refills, so it is well worth having a look next time you visit for some awesome savings!
Contributed by Nadene Owen

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