

## Clean Ocean Action's ~10 Tips For Cleaning~



*Many household products contain ingredients that are hazardous to human health and the environment. The following suggestions are simple, homemade solutions that have proven to be safe and effective.*

- 1. General cleaning:** use a natural cleaning product, such as Bon Ami instead of chemical cleansers, or ½-cup Borax dissolved in 1 gallon hot water, or add ½-cup washing soda (sodium carbonate) to 1 bucket warm water. Reuse old spray bottles for storage. For tough stains, use half a lemon dipped in Borax and rub.
- 2. Mildew:** dissolve ½-cup Borax and ½-cup white vinegar in warm water to make a rubbing paste.
- 3. Drain cleaner:** for clogs, pour ½-cup baking soda down the drain followed by 1-cup white vinegar. Allow mixture to foam for several minutes then flush with 1-gallon boiling water. To maintain your drain, pour ¼-cup salt down the drain followed by boiling water.
- 4. For rust stains on porcelain:** put ketchup on stain and leave for few hours. Rub and rinse.
- 5. Glass cleaner:** mix ¼-cup vinegar, 1 tbsp. corn starch, and 1 quart of water. Reuse old spray bottles for storage.
- 6. Metal polish:** for silver, add 1 tablespoon each of baking soda and salt to boiling water. Drop in silver and boil for 3 minutes; polish with soft cloth. For brass, mix equal parts of flour and salt into a small amount of vinegar and rub.



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**7. Carpet cleaner:** mix 2 parts cornmeal with 1 part Borax. Sprinkle on carpet and leave for one hour, then vacuum. For stains, dampen stained area then rub in Borax. Let stand until dry, and then vacuum.

**8. Laundry products:** use soaps and non-phosphate detergents, such as Ivory Snow, Borax, and Ecover. For a bleach alternative use full strength Borax and water or non-chlorine bleach.

**9. Dishwashing soap:** Use vegetable-based products, such as Seventh Generation. Avoid products that contain chemical disinfectants such as antibacterial triclosan or triclocarbon, which can contaminate local waterways.

**10. Floor and furniture polish:** mix ¼-cup of lemon juice, 1 tsp. of olive oil, and 10 drops of essential lemon oil. Or simply dust with a slightly dampened cloth.



*Nonpoint source or “pointless” pollution is the #1 cause of coastal water pollution. This pollution has many sources, including stormwater runoff that carries litter, pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides, soil, and waste from leaky sewage systems into waterways. Every time it rains polluted stormwater travels to the nearest storm drain or waterbody that ultimately drains to the ocean. Though people and their everyday habits are often the source of pollution, we can easily become the solution. By making small changes we can make our ocean fishable, swimmable, and healthy.*

For more information and the complete 10 Tip Series visit:



**[www.CleanOceanAction.org](http://www.CleanOceanAction.org)**

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