

Eco-Corner ~ The Many Benefits of Vinegar

Last month, I shared with you some basic information on Vinegar, an earth-friendly alternative to many chemicals. Because this has been used for thousands of years, we can take some actions to adapt it to our present-day lives in order to reduce the number of environmentally harsh and toxic chemicals used around our homes. Here are just a few of those handy tips:

- ~ To remove calcium buildup on kettles and jugs, boil the kettle with half a cup of white vinegar and leave to soak. Rinse with fresh water, reboil with that same water and your kettle should now be calcium deposit free.
- ~ Place a small container of vinegar in your toilet and bathroom to eliminate odors.
- ~ A half cup of vinegar added to a toilet bowl and left overnight removes bowl odor.
- ~ A cotton ball soaked in vinegar and applied to bruises for an hour is said to speed up the healing process.
- ~ Vinegar on minor burns and many sorts of stings can alleviate pain.
- ~ For cleaning your dishwasher, vinegar frozen into ice cubes, then a couple added to the bottom of the dishwasher just prior to a cycle is an effective alternative to using heavy chemical cleaners.
- ~ Old, stiff paintbrushes can be revived by dipping them into heated white vinegar for a couple of hours, followed by a rinse in soapy water. Beats using turpentine~
- ~ Vinegar can be used as a nappy soak; simply add half a cup of white vinegar to the water in the nappy (diaper) bucket.
- ~ Use it as a broad leaf weed killer—spray onto the leaves of weeds, being careful to avoid plants you wish to keep. A mix of vinegar and salt can be used to keep weeds and grass out of driveway cement joints.
- ~ Vinegar can be used as a benchtop disinfectant; but it's a good idea to wipe over at night in order that the smell dissipates.
- ~ For pet owners, white vinegar poured onto pet urine mishaps on carpets, then blotted up with paper towel will prevent staining and odor.
- ~ Save money on washing pre-spray by spraying neat vinegar on deodorant and other stains on garments just prior to washing.
- ~ Spray a 50/50 mix of vinegar and water onto soap scum on shower screens, leave sit, then wipe or rinse off.
- ~ Neat vinegar sprayed onto mold affected bathroom/shower tiles will kill the mold.
- ~ Vinegar can be used as a fabric softener by adding half the amount of vinegar as you would of your usual softening agent.
- ~ I've seen many suggestions that a tablespoon of vinegar can be used as a replacement for hair conditioner.
- ~ Vinegar can be used as a glass cleaner either mixed with water or used neat in a spray bottle.
- ~ Use full strength vinegar to polish chrome and stainless steel.
- ~ Use a 50/50 vinegar and water mix to clean your iron. Add the mixture to your iron and allow it to steam itself clean.
- ~ Pour boiling white vinegar down a clogged drain to remove the obstruction.
- ~ Used in a fine atomizer, vinegar is effective as a room deodorizer.
- ~ Ants hate vinegar; so spray it around doorways and other areas they frequent to repel them.
- ~ Not to mention vinegar is great for chips and salad dressings. :)

These tips really only scratch the surface of this versatile and environmentally friendly substance.

Special Note: Spot test before going all out with any of the cleaning related tips above.

Information provided for you by ~

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