

# RECIPES

## HOUSEHOLD RECIPES

1. **Furniture Polish:** For oil-finish surfaces, use almond or olive oil. Dust with damp cloth and wipe dry.
2. **Air Freshener:** Small bowl of vinegar or lemon juice set near a heat register.
3. **All-purpose Cleaner:** 1 teaspoon of liquid soap, 1 teaspoon of borax, and 1/4 cup of vinegar in 1 quart of warm water.
4. **Bleach:** Use Borax.
5. **Carpet Cleaner:** 1 cup of borax and 2 cups of cornmeal or baking soda. Sprinkle this mixture on your stain and let stand for one hour. Vacuum up.
6. **Detergent:** Simple soap or phosphate-free detergent.
7. **Glass Cleaner:** 2 Tablespoons of vinegar in 1 quart of water. (Use newspaper for a streak free window without the lint.)
8. **Grease Remover:** Baking soda paste.
9. **Stain Remover:** Cornstarch paste.
10. **Club Soda:** Cleans the chrome on a dishwasher.
11. **Remove Roaches:** Add beer, banana and a few drops of anise extract to a jam jar. Cover the jar with masking tape so they can climb up. Smear petroleum jelly around the inside top of the jar so they can't escape.
12. **Remove silverfish:** Put tape ups a straight sided glass and add 1/4 cup of flour. Silverfish climb up, go in and can't get out.
13. **Remove Pet Odor:** Heat coffee grounds in a cast iron pan. When they start to smell good--place in the offensive smelling room.
14. **After bathing fido,** use baking soda in his rinse water to keep him smelling nice.
15. **Toilet Bowl Cleaner:** Vinegar and water will remove most limescale. Scrubbing with baking soda will remove the rest.
16. **Drain Cleaner:** Mix 1 cup of baking soda with 1 cup salt and 1/4 cup of cream of tartar. Pour 1/4 of this mixture into the drain each week.
17. **Clogged Drain:** Pour 1/4 cup of baking soda and follow with 1/2 cup of vinegar and seal the drain. Wait for the bubbling to stop. Now flush with boiling water. IF it's a bathroom clog and likely hair, tie a fishhook onto string, and fish for the clog! Last resort: Use a plumbers snake--carefully.
18. **Tile and wall cleaner:** Put 1/4 cup of baking soda in a small bowl and add just 2 to 3 Tablespoons of liquid soap. Scoop this mixture up to scrub tiles. Rinse with cool water.
19. **White water spots on wood:** Rub with cigarette ashes to remove.
20. **Rust stains off porcelain:** Mix cream of tartar with hydrogen peroxide to make a paste and scrub gently. Let paste dry, then rinse.
21. **Showerhead clogged:** Take apart and soak in vinegar. Use a paper clip to poke out stubborn areas. Rinse.

22. **Rejuvenate the finish of your table:** Spread a thin coat of petroleum jelly, leave overnight, and wipe off.
23. **Vinegar, white:** 1 cup replaces fabric softener in the rinse cycle.

## GARDEN RECIPES

1. **Get rid of mosquitoes:** Put a few drops of dish detergent in puddles.
2. **Get rid of yellow jackets:** AT NIGHT pour hot soapy water in their hole.
3. **Remover Wasps:** Cut a small hole in a margarine tub's lid and add sugar water. Wasps get in but can't get out.
4. **Get rid of any bugs:** Put a clove of garlic in your houseplants.
5. **Effective ant barriers:** Chili powder, bonemeal or powdered charcoal.
6. **Carpenter Ant Ridder:** On an index card mix boric acid and mint/apple jelly and place near nest--CAUTION--will kill pets, so watch and then throw away!
7. **Raccoon Away:** Ammonia rags or just sprinkled over garbage.
8. **Squirrel out of Chimney:** Pan with ammonia placed into fireplace--fumes will drive squirrels away.
9. **Add flour to your fertilizer** to make sure your have gotten all areas and don't over fertilize!
10. **Add Boiled linseed oil** to mineral spirits for a cheaper and less toxic wood preservative.

## OTHER RECIPES

1. **Sprinkle** onto a wet rag baking soda and wipe across your windshield to make the raindrops bead up and slide off.
2. **Stir cat litter** into unwanted latex paint. When it's dry, throw it away. Better is to donate to church's homeless shelters.
3. **Brush baking powder** onto split cane chairs that you have wiped with a warm damp cloth. Once this dries, brush it off.



## RECIPES FOR ALTERNATIVES TO HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS *Saving Our Environment*



Town of Leicester Storm Water  
Management Committee

For more information go to:  
[www.leicesterma.org](http://www.leicesterma.org)  
and click on our frog.

Or call 508-892-7021