

Tips:

- Take care of small spills before they become big problems.
- Think twice before making any purchases. *Will the packaging mean more trash? Will the item mean more work dusting or cleaning?*
- Prevent messes, when possible:
 - *Buy stain resistant materials*
 - *Eat only in the kitchen or dining area*
 - *Have a “boots off” policy*
 - *Use doormats at outside doors*

For more information, contact your local UW-Extension Family Living staff.

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Family Living Programs

MM04: Clean...Not Costly: Caring for Your Home



Afford Healthy Food Choices with DOLLAR SENSE

How can I keep my home clean without spending a fortune on cleaning supplies?

It is possible to keep your home clean without costly cleaners. Many of these ideas are also safer for you and the environment.

Basic cleaning supplies to have on hand:

- *white vinegar*
- *baking soda*
- *chlorine bleach*
- *old rags & newspapers*

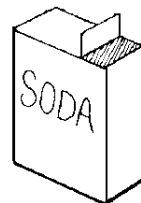
White vinegar can be used to:

- Remove soap scum. Wet a cloth with vinegar and rub surface until clean.



- Wash windows. Mix $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of vinegar and 1 gallon (16 cups) of water.
- Treat pet stains. Sponge spots with a solution of $\frac{1}{2}$ cup white vinegar in 1 quart of water. Let stand a few minutes. Wipe clean.

Baking soda can be used to:



- Scour sinks, countertops and other surfaces. Sprinkle soda on a damp cloth or sponge and scour.
- Absorb odors – in refrigerators, closets and laundry.
- Freshen carpets. Mix $\frac{3}{4}$ cup baking soda and 2 tablespoons cornstarch. Sprinkle on carpet. Let stand 5 to 15 minutes. Vacuum.
- Keep drains clean. Pour baking soda in drain and run hot water for 1-2 minutes.
- Clean appliances and other equipment. Mix 2 tablespoons baking soda in 1 quart (4 cups) of warm water. Wash surfaces with solution.

Chlorine bleach can be used to:

- Disinfect your kitchen cutting surfaces, dishcloths, and equipment. Wipe (or soak) with a mixture of 1 tablespoon of bleach in 1 gallon of water. Rinse.
- Clean toilet bowl. Flush toilet. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup bleach. Let stand 10 minutes. Scrub and flush.

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• **BEWARE!** Chlorine bleach can be dangerous. •
• Keep out of reach of children. Do **not** mix •
• ammonia and chlorine bleach! •
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