



Vinegar: So Many Uses for so Little Money

In my opinion you can never have too much vinegar in your General Store. If you are trying to be self-reliant and at the same time prepared on a budget, consider all the uses to common vinegar.

Following are 80 uses for vinegar that will save you time and money.

1. Remove a sticky label. Place rag soaked in vinegar over label for a minute and wipe.
2. Kill weeds. Fill a spray bottle with white vinegar and a few drops of Dawn dish detergent. Shake to mix. Spray weeds several times and wait a few days. If weeds do not die, try a second time.
3. Revive cut flowers. When flowers start to wilt add two tablespoons of white vinegar and one teaspoon of sugar to a quart of water. Pour into vase of flowers and enjoy them a few more days.
4. Keep car windows frost-free. Prevent windows from frosting over by spraying with three parts white distilled vinegar to one part water. The acidity hinders ice, so you won't have to wake up early to scrape.
5. Remove stains from the bottom of a cup or plate. Place 2 tablespoons of vinegar in the cup or dish, let stand 15 minutes, wash as usual.
6. Clean and deodorize a garbage disposal. Make vinegar ice cubes and feed them down the disposal. The ice also helps to sharpen the disposal. Rinse with cold water.
7. Clean drain. Place one cup of baking soda in drain. Pour white vinegar into the drain. Mixture will foam. Cover and allow the baking soda and vinegar to work for 20 minutes. Pour boiling water down the drain to rinse.
8. Clean a dishwasher. Once a month run a cup of vinegar through an entire cycle to reduce soap buildup.
9. Clean window blinds. Clean blinds with equal parts vinegar and water. Clean with a clean cloth or cotton glove. Dip your hand covered with a glove, in the solution and slide your fingers across the blinds, with a finger on each side of each slats. Rinse with clean water.
10. Remove grease. You can remove grease from kitchen surfaces using a solution consisting of equal parts white vinegar and water.
11. Remove smoke smell. If you have burned food or you smoke, you can remove the smell by placing a small bowl of white or cider vinegar in the room where the smell is the strongest. In less than a day, the odor will be gone. For new cigarette smoke, wave a cloth that's been moistened with vinegar around the room to absorb the smell, really quickly.
12. Deodorize small spaces. Deodorize a lunch box, car trunk, closet, old trunk, or locker by soaking a cloth in vinegar and placing it in the closed space overnight.

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13. Clean the fridge. Clean the shelves and walls with a solution of half water and half vinegar. Not only will the fridge be clean but it will also smell fresh.
 14. Clean exhaust fans. Wipe grease off exhaust fan grids, the inside of your oven, or anywhere grease gathers with a sponge soaked in white distilled vinegar.
 15. Clean after a flood. Vinegar used as a disinfectant will kill most germs except salmonella.
 16. Steam clean a microwave. Fill a small bowl with equal parts hot water and vinegar. Place bowl in the microwave on high for 5 minutes. The steam will loosen any spills making clean up quick and easy.
 17. Kill bathroom germs. Spray full-strength vinegar around the sink and tub. Wipe clean with a damp cloth.
 18. In the bathroom. Pour 2 cups white distilled vinegar into the toilet bowl. Let sit several hours or overnight. Scrub well with a toilet brush and flush.
 19. Get rid of mildew stains. Apply full strength vinegar to heavy mildew stains or dilute half and half with water for lighter stains. To help prevent mildew from forming on rugs and carpets mist the back with full strength white vinegar in a spray bottle.
 20. Clean a teakettle. Boil 2 cups water and 1 cup vinegar, one minute. Dump water, rinse and wipe clean.
 21. Clean chrome or stainless steel. Spray with full strength vinegar and buff it to a high shine with a soft cloth.
 22. Clean a coffeemaker. Fill reservoir with 50/50 white vinegar and water mixture and run through a brewing cycle. Follow up by running through two cycles using water.
 23. Clean grout. Spray full-strength white vinegar on grout, let sit 10 few minutes and scrub it with an old toothbrush.
 24. Spray shower doors with full-strength white vinegar after you've squeegeed the glass. It will help release the hard water deposits so they don't remain on the glass.
 25. Clean showerhead. If your showerhead gets clogged with mineral deposits, soak for 20 minutes in a mixture of ½ cup vinegar and 1 quart water.
 26. Clean spots off faucets. To get rid of lime buildup, make a paste of 1 teaspoon vinegar and 2 tablespoons salt. Apply to sink fixtures and rub with a soft cloth.
 27. Wash windows. Spray windows with white vinegar and dry with a page from your newspaper.
 28. Kill fruit flies. Place a small, low, bowl of vinegar on the counter near the area overwhelmed by fruit flies. In a few hours they will be floating in the vinegar.
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29. Shine silverware or silver jewelry. Soak silver in one half cup of white vinegar and two tablespoons of baking soda for three hours. Rinse with cold water and dry thoroughly with a soft cloth.
 30. Clean piano keys with a solution of equal parts vinegar and water. Use a damp cloth as you don't want water between the keys. Wipe each key gently and dry immediately. Leave piano keyboard open for several hours after cleaning.
 31. Remove wax. If you get melted candle wax on your wood furniture or floors, gently wipe away with a cloth soaked in a solution of equal parts white vinegar and water.
 32. Remove water rings on tables. Combine equal parts of vinegar and olive oil and apply with a soft, clean, cloth. Wipe over the stain in the direction of the wood grain. Use a clean cloth to polish. For leather water rings, use a sponge and full strength white vinegar to remove the stain.
 33. Disguise wood scratches. Combine white or cider vinegar and a few drops of iodine in a small jar. Paint over wood scratches with a small brush. Match the shade of your wood by using more iodine or more vinegar.
 34. Erase crayon. Dip a toothbrush in white vinegar and gently scrub crayon.
 35. Renew sponges and dishcloths. Placing in just enough water to cover. Then add 1/4 cup white distilled vinegar. Let them soak overnight. Sponges are very germey so do this on a regular basis.
 36. Clean bricks. Wipe bricks with a mixture of one cup of vinegar per gallon of hot water.
 37. Brighten wood paneling. Mix together one pint warm water, two tablespoons olive oil, and four tablespoons white vinegar. Mix well. Apply to paneling with a clean cloth. Wait five minutes and polish using a clean soft cloth.
 38. Clean carpet or rug. For a dingy carpet brush with a broom that has been dipped in a solution of one gallon of water and one cup of white vinegar.
 39. Remove carpet stains. Combine a half cup of white vinegar and two tablespoons of salt and gently rub into get carpet stains out. For tough carpet stains, add two tablespoons of borax to the mixture.
 40. Reduce bubbles in a steam cleaner. Add 1/4 cup white distilled vinegar to water. Use the same amount in the rinse water to remove soap residue.
 41. Clean an iron. Fill the water chamber with a solution of equal parts white distilled vinegar and distilled water. Set it in an upright position and let it steam for about 5 minutes. When the iron is cool, rinse the tank with water, refill and shake water through the vents onto an old cloth. Heat iron and steam test before using.
 42. Remove ironing scorch marks. Rub scorched area with a warm solution of equal parts white vinegar and salt. For stubborn marks use a cloth dampened with full-strength white vinegar.
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43. Eliminate tiny holes along the hemline. When hemming a garment and you need to remove the old hem moisten a cloth with white distilled vinegar, placing it under the fabric and iron.
 44. Fluff wool sweaters. Drop in a couple of capfuls of vinegar during the rinse cycle for an extra-soft feel.
 45. Fabric softener. Add ½ cup of white distilled vinegar to your wash cycle. The acid reduces static and keeps dryer lint from sticking to your clothes.
 46. Whiten clothes. Add ½ cup white vinegar to the rinse cycle and it will remove soap residue from the wash, brightening colored clothes and whitening whites.
 47. Remove stains. Get the stains out of old socks and clothes by soaking them in a vinegar solution. Add 1 cup of white vinegar to a large pot of water, bring to a boil, turn off heat and drop in the stained clothes. Be sure the clothing can be washed in hot water. Let items soak overnight. Wash as normal.
 48. Under arm stains. Rub gently with vinegar to remove antiperspirant stains.
 49. Give new life to paint brushes. To remove old paint, place brushes in a pot with vinegar. Soak for an hour, then turn on the stove and bring the vinegar to a simmer for 15 minutes. Rinse.
 50. Remove paint from windows. Spray undiluted, hot white vinegar onto paint. Give vinegar time to soften the paint before removing with a razor blade.
 51. Painting concrete. Before painting old concrete, clean with full-strength white distilled vinegar. Let it air dry.
 52. Loosen a screw. Pour vinegar onto the screw, let sit a few seconds, and unscrew.
 53. Remove gum. Heat a small bowl of vinegar in the microwave until very warm, not boiling. Pour warm vinegar over gum, saturating the area. Remove with the unsharpened side of a knife.
 54. Clean your grill. Spray white distilled vinegar on ball of aluminum foil and scrub the grate.
 55. Discourage ants. Spray undiluted white vinegar outside doorways, windowsills, and anywhere you notice ants coming in.
 56. Revitalize your can opener. Clean the wheel using an old toothbrush and white vinegar.
 57. Shiny hair for pets. Mix one cup white distilled vinegar and one quart water. Spray your dog and brush. Less expensive than pet care products and helps repel pests such as fleas and ticks.
 58. Eliminate litter-box odor. Pour white distilled vinegar into the empty litter box to cover the entire bottom. Let stand for 20 minutes, rinse with cold water.
 59. Clean up after pets. Mix ¼ cup vinegar and 1 quart of water. Using a clean cloth saturate the cloth and blot at the stain. Continue until it disappears.
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60. Relieve sunburn pain. Soak a clean wash cloth in apple cider vinegar. Place over sun burned area. If you have a large area, add 1-2 cups apple cider vinegar to your bath water and soak.
 61. Treat oily hair. Vinegar is a good degreaser for oily hair because it helps adjust pH levels. Shampoo your hair as usual, rinse, then pour 1/4 cup over it and rinse again.
 62. Brighten your hair. Remove hair product buildup by rinsing hair with a tablespoon of vinegar once a month.
 63. Relax in the bath. Add ½ cup of vinegar to warm bath water. The vinegar removes dead skin, leaving you feeling soft and smooth.
 64. Relieve itching. Soak a cotton ball in white vinegar and dab on mosquito bites and insect stings.
 65. Stop nose bleeds. Dampen a cotton ball and place in nostril.
 66. Soothe bruises. Soak cotton ball in white vinegar and place on bruise. Reduces blueness and aids in healing.
 67. Whiten your teeth. Brush your teeth once a week with white distilled vinegar. Dip your toothbrush into the vinegar and brush thoroughly.
 68. Make nail polish last longer. Before you apply polish wipe your nails with a cotton ball soaked in white distilled vinegar. The clean surface will help your manicure last longer.
 69. Renew a loofah. Soak loofah in equal parts vinegar and water for 24 hours to dissolve soap residue and disinfect. Rinse in cold water.
 70. Soften your feet. If you have cracked heels and calluses soak your feet for 20 minutes a day in one part vinegar to two parts warm water. The vinegar removes dead skin, leaving your feet soft and smooth. After a few days you will see a big improvement.
 71. Replace lemon juice in a recipe. Use 1/2 teaspoon of vinegar in place of 1 teaspoon of lemon juice.
 72. Keep peeled potatoes from turning brown. Cover with water and 2 tablespoons white vinegar.
 73. Remove fruit and berry stains from hands by washing hands with white vinegar.
 74. Add moisture to a chocolate cake, from scratch or boxed. Add 1 teaspoon white vinegar to recipe or mix, and bake as usual.
 75. Kill bacteria in meat. Marinating in vinegar kills bacteria and tenderizes the meat. Create a marinade of ¼ cup balsamic vinegar and a blend of favorite herbs and spices. I like balsamic and garlic, keep it simple. Let meat sit, turning occasionally 2-24 hours, depending on how strong you want the flavor, cook without rinsing.
 76. Flaky pie crust. Add a teaspoon of vinegar to the ice water in your recipe for a flakier crust.
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77. Prevent cracked eggs. Prevent eggs from cracking as they hard-boil by adding two tablespoons of white vinegar to the water. The eggs will stay intact, and the shells will peel off more easily when you're ready to eat them.
 78. Keep cheese from molding. Brush cheese with vinegar, place in an airtight container and refrigerate.
 79. Rinse fruits and vegetables. Add 2 tablespoons white distilled vinegar to one pint water. Wash fresh fruits and vegetables, then rinse thoroughly. The solution kills more pesticide residue than does pure water.
 80. Easter eggs. Mix 1 teaspoon of vinegar with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of hot water, add food coloring. The vinegar keeps the dye bright and prevents the color from streaking.
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