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ALKALINE CLEANER

Ingredients: ½ teaspoon washing soda, 2 teaspoons borax, ½ teaspoon liquid soap or detergent, 2 cups hot water. Shake to combine. Shake each time prior to use. May be used in a spray bottle. Do not use on aluminum or Plexiglas as it may scratch. Shelf life is indefinite. Recipe from *Better Basics for the Home* by Annie Berthold Bond
NB: For a less caustic cleaner, you can substitute baking soda for the washing soda.

GLASS CLEANER

½ white distilled vinegar

2 cups water

Put into spray bottle, then use paper towels, squeegee or newspapers to wipe off. Please note that commercial glass cleaners leave a residue so you may have to apply twice to get the commercial residue off. Vinegar is an all purpose cleaner and will kill 90% of germs if left on 30 seconds. Shelf life is indefinite.

DEODORIZERS

For alkaline odors: Mix 2 tablespoons of vinegar and 2 cups of water. Put into spray bottle and spray problem area. Leave on for 15 minutes. If this doesn't eliminate odor, add 2 more tablespoons of vinegar and try again. Shelf life is indefinite.

For acidic odors such as urine, sour milk, rotten fruit, vomit: Mix 2 tablespoons of baking soda and 2 cups of hot water. Shake and put into spray bottle. Do not rinse unless there is a residue. Shelf life is indefinite.

FURNITURE CLEANER

Mix ¼ cup white distilled vinegar, ¼ cup water, ½ teaspoon liquid soap or detergent, a few drops of olive oil (or jojoba), a few drops of fragrance if desired. Mix in a bowl and use. Shelf life is indefinite.

DISHWASHING DETERGENT

Washing dishes by hand? Try: 1 ounce liquid castile soap, 2 cups of water, 1 teaspoon glycerin, and an optional 5 to 10 drops of lavender essential oil. (Lavender is an anti-bacterial.) Stir to blend. This should work well except in hard water.

By machine: Try using sodium hexametaphosphate, which is a mild mineral powder. It can be ordered from a chemical supply house. Look in the telephone book for this.

DRAIN CLEANER

¼ cup baking soda, ¼ cup salt, 1 cup distilled vinegar. After 15 minutes, follow up with a large pot of hot or boiling water. You can also try putting 1 cup of washing soda into standing water, or 1 cup baking soda and 3 cups boiling water.