

Laundry Tips

Practical Ideas To Save You Time and Money



By The Hillbilly Housewife

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10 Reasons Why You Should Use Vinegar in Your Laundry

Looking for brighter whites or bolder colors? The answer just might be white distilled vinegar. It's a safe and inexpensive way to boost the cleaning power of your detergent and add a little more muscle to your stain remover. Here are 10 reasons why you should be adding vinegar to your wash.

Get cleaner laundry! Add about 1/4 cup white distilled vinegar to the last rinse. The acid in white distilled vinegar is too mild to harm fabrics, yet strong enough to dissolve the alkalies in soaps and detergents. Besides removing soap, white distilled vinegar prevents yellowing, acts as a fabric softener and static cling reducer, and attacks mold and mildew.

Remove perspiration odor and stains on clothing, as well as those left by deodorants, by spraying full-strength white distilled vinegar on underarm and collar areas before tossing them into the washing machine.

Forgot that you left wet laundry in the machine and it now smells moldy? Pour a few cups of white distilled vinegar in the machine and wash the clothes in hot water. Then run a normal cycle with detergent.

Prevent lint from clinging to clothes by adding 1/2 cup white distilled vinegar to the wash cycle.

To remove soap residue that makes black clothes look dull use white distilled vinegar in your final rinse.

Get stained white socks and dingy dishcloths white again. Add 1 cup white distilled vinegar to a large pot of water, bring it to a rolling boil and drop in the articles. Let soak overnight.

Attack spaghetti, barbecue, or ketchup stains with a white distilled vinegar and water solution.

Remove musky smells from cotton clothes by sprinkling them lightly with white distilled vinegar and then pressing them.

Remove soap scum and clean the hoses of your washing machine with white distilled vinegar. Periodically run the machine with only a cup of white distilled vinegar in it—nothing else added to the wash cycle.

Bring out bright colors by adding 1/2 cup white distilled vinegar to the rinse cycle.

Easy Homemade Laundry Detergent

Have you ever tried making homemade laundry detergent? It is very easy to do and will last a lot longer than the store bought laundry detergent. It will also save you money in the long run—mere pennies per load.

To get started making your own homemade laundry detergent you will need the following:

- 2 gallon pail with a lid (you can pick these up at any home improvement store)
- ½ cup of washing soda
- ½ cup of borax
- 1/3 of a bar of Fels Naptha soap, grated
- Hot tap water
- grater

To make the detergent:

- In a large pot, heat 3 pints of water. Add the grated bar soap and stir until melted. Then add the washing soda and borax. Stir until powder is dissolved, then remove from heat.
- In a 2 gallon clean pail, pour 1 quart of hot water and add the heated soap mixture. Top pail with cold water and stir well.
- Let the mixture sit for 24 hours before using. It should be very gel like. Stir before each use.

To wash a load of clothes:

Stir the laundry mixture up before using. Scoop ½ cup of laundry detergent out and mix with the water in your machine before putting the clothes in the washer.

Because this is homemade laundry detergent, it will not suds as much, but it cleans fine.

Frugal Tips for Stretching Your Fabric Softener

For those of us who have yet to tackle making homemade fabric softener, there are ways to stretch the store bought softeners so that you can get the best bang for your buck.

Pour liquid fabric softener and hot water in a spray bottle using portion to portion mix, and lightly mist damp laundry before starting the dryer. Also spritzing a clean washcloth and tossing that in the dryer will work also.

Mix equal parts hair conditioner and water and store in spray bottle. Mist a washcloth or sponge and toss in dryer with wet load.

Soak a washcloth in full strength liquid fabric softener. Wring out the washcloth, then lay it out to dry first before using. This will prevent staining. When you are ready to use, toss the dried washcloth in the dryer and use it again and again until the softener smell has left the washcloth and is no longer working. To reuse, re-soak when needed.

Using 1/4 cup vinegar in your laundry's rinse cycle keeps clothes soft. You can set aside a container just for the vinegar and add about 2 dozen drops of your favorite essential oil to it if you'd like to give it that special softener smell.

Cut dryer sheets in thirds or halves, use one strip per dryer load.

By implementing these tips in your day to day laundry cleaning, you can make your fabric softener last twice as long!

How to Make Your Own Dryer Ball

Dryer balls help to cut down on the time your clothes have to spend in the dryer. They help to eliminate the static. If you do not want to buy a dryer ball, it is simple to make your own.

Things You'll Need

- Wool Yarn and/or Wool Roving
- Scraps of Acrylic Yarn
- Scissors
- Panty Hose
- Tapestry Needle

If You Are Using The Roving

Split the length of wool roving into a few thinner strands. Take one strand of roving and begin wrapping it tightly around your fingers. Take the wool off your fingers and start wrapping around the bundle as if you were making a yarn ball. Continue wrapping the roving until the core of the ball is at the desired size. Do not let go yet. Take a piece of the wool yarn and wind just enough around the roving to secure it. Pull the end under a strand of yarn a few times and tie it.

If You Are Using the Wool

Begin by tightly wrapping one end of the yarn around your fingers. Take the loop off your fingers and begin wrapping a very tight yarn ball. Wrap until the core is big enough for your liking. Thread the end of the yarn into the eye of the tapestry needle, push under multiple strands and tie to secure. Continue making balls until you have as many as you want. Place the balls in the panty hose and tie a piece of the acrylic yarn on the side of each ball. You must use acrylic or some other synthetic yarn because this is not supposed to felt. Toss the entire panty hose into the washer and dryer. The hotter the water and the hotter the dryer is, the faster the wool will felt. If washed along with a regular load of laundry, they will also felt but may take longer.

The Last Layer

Cut the yarn off the pantyhose and take out the wool balls. They will continue to felt with use over time. Continue to cover the core with your choice of roving and/or yarn until they reach your desired size. Remember to make them slightly bigger because they shrink a little bit when felted. Place the balls back in the stocking the same way you did before and throw in the washer and dryer one more time. When they are dry, cut the yarn and take out of the pantyhose. The balls are finished and ready for use.

How to Properly Iron Clothes

Did you know that there is a proper way to iron clothes? If done correctly, your clothes will look neat, pressed, and ready to wear to even the most professional places. However, if done incorrectly, your clothing could end up with burn marks, wrinkles, and not appropriate to wear to any place!

Here is a step-by-step process to get your clothes looking pressed and professional!

- Purchase an iron and an ironing board to press your clothes. These items can be bought at most discount stores and many department stores.
- Set up the ironing board according to the directions. Make sure the legs are firmly in place. Test it for security before beginning to iron your clothes.
- Some irons come with a steam option. If so, steam your clothes by adding water to the iron. Then plug the iron in, and wait for the temperature gauge to tell you it's ready.
- Begin ironing your clothes by taking the piece of clothing to be pressed and laying it on the ironing board. Apply the hot iron directly to the clothing, moving it around. Don't linger too long, or you may burn or scorch your clothing.
- Look at your clothes when you are finished to make sure that you got all of the wrinkles. If there are any, place the piece of clothing back on the ironing board, and apply the iron to the area where the wrinkles appear. Smooth out the wrinkles with the iron.

Now you are done ironing and can wear your clothes with pride!

Recommended Resources

Keeping It Clean



This is a 3 ebook series that will help you spend less time and money on your laundry. Tawra and Jill from Living On A Dime share their best frugal laundry, cleaning and home organization tips.

Grab your copy today at <http://www.hillbillyhousewife.com/laundry>

30 Days To An Organized Home



Something that's made a huge difference for me is the "[30 Days To An Organized Home](http://www.hillbillyhousewife.com/organizedhome)" ebook by MomsinaBlog.com.

Work your way through organizing and decluttering every room in your house in 30 days. The daily tasks make it easy to follow along and kept me from getting overwhelmed with the task at hand.

You'll also find some helpful printable checklists that will keep you on task and allow you to track your progress.

Get your copy today at <http://www.hillbillyhousewife.com/organizedhome>

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Crockpot Cooking Made Simple



Tired of spending all day stirring pots in the kitchen, or just don't have the time to make a big homemade meal for dinner each night? I don't either. Instead I put my crockpot to work.

Let me show you how simple and easy it is to put inexpensive and healthy meals on the table without all the work and fuss.

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If you like the convenience of those frozen TV dinners, but aren't too fond of the lack of nutrition, abundance of salt and aren't a big fan of the taste, take a look at my freezer cooking guide. I'd love to show you just how easy it is to make your own frozen meals that you can thaw and heat for quick and easy dinners on busy nights.

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