



# Green Cleaning Life Hacks

## 10 ways to use vinegar around the home

Vinegar is not only cheap to buy but more importantly it's nontoxic. It cuts through soap scum, deodorizes, and is the perfect thing to make your windows and glass shine.

1. **Window Cleaner** - Mix 2 cups water with 1 cup vinegar in a spray bottle and watch those windows sparkle!
2. If your **rugs** or carpets are looking worn bring them back to life by brushing them with a clean brush dipped in a solution of 1 cup white vinegar to 1 gallon (3.7 liters) water. The pile will perk up, and you don't even need to rinse off the solution.
3. **Candles** are lovely, especially on this long dark evenings but there's nothing worse getting melted candle wax on your wood furniture. To remove it, first soften the wax using a hair-dryer on its hottest setting and blot up as much as you can with paper towels. Then remove what's left by rubbing with a cloth soaked in a solution made of equal parts white vinegar and water. Wipe clean with a soft cloth.
4. To clean **chrome** and **stainless steel appliances**, spritz with undiluted white vinegar from a recycled spray bottle. Buff with a soft cloth to bring on a shine.
5. Whiffy **lunch boxes** are not nice. Soak a slice of white bread in white vinegar and leave it in the lunchbox overnight. The smell should be gone by morning.
6. To clean your **microwave**, place a glass bowl filled with a solution of 1/4 cup vinegar in 1 cup water inside, and zap the mixture for five minutes on the highest setting. Once the bowl cools, dip a cloth or sponge into the liquid and use it to wipe away stains and splatters on the interior.
7. To disinfect and clean your **wood chopping boards** wipe them with white vinegar after each use. The acetic acid in the vinegar is a good disinfectant, effective against such harmful bugs as E. coli, Salmonella, and Staphylococcus. Never use water and dishwashing detergent, because it can weaken surface wood fibers.
8. Put the sparkle back in your **glassware** by adding vinegar to your rinse water or dishwasher.
9. Remove limescale from your showerhead by soking it in a bowl of neat vinegar overnight. If it's non-removable pour vinegar into a plastic bag and tapeto the shower head. Remove in the morning.
10. Clothes Washing. A single cup of vinegar will kill off any bacteria that may be present in your washing, especially if it includes cloth nappies or heavily soiled items. It will also keep your clothes coming out of the wash soft and smelling fresh - so you don't need fabric-softener or fabric sheets. Added to the last rinse, a cup of vinegar will keep your clothes lint- and static-free.

**Have you got any tips on using vinegar around the home?**

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