

# Quarantine Clean



So many of us are at home, seeing our living spaces up close in grimy detail. Here are some cleaning hacks to help pass the time and feel good about sheltering in your shelter!

## Clean your blinds and windows

Do not self-isolate with dirty windows and blinds, they're your view of the world!

To get those blinds grime-free, combine equal parts water and vinegar in a bowl and get a sock to put over your hand. Dip the sock in the solution and then run it over each slat of the blinds to remove any dirt or dust. And your sock puppet can entertain you and your family with amusing stories about cleaning blinds!

For windows, use 1 part vinegar to 10 parts water and either a coffee filter, microfiber cloth, or (it's true!) newspaper for the best streak-free clear shine.

## Clean stainless steel appliances

Spending more time in your kitchen? Here are a few ways to make the stainless steel gleam ...

- Clean and polish with a soft cloth and olive oil
- Use dish soap and water to clean the surface, dry any wet spots, and use a few drops of baby or mineral oil on a second cloth to make it shine.
- Spray WD-40 on the appliance and then wipe away with a soft cloth.

## Clean your couch

The couch is the heart of the household during a lockdown, so freshen it up! Baking soda can help remove any lingering smells and break up any stains on the fabric. Just brush off the surface of the couch, then sprinkle baking soda on the area you want to clean. Let it sit for about 20 minutes, then vacuum it up using the brush attachment.

## Clean your computer

Working from home means extra wear and gunk on your home computer. Never use harsh chemicals on or near your device! Just pour some white vinegar on a microfiber cloth and scrub the keyboard thoroughly. Use a cotton swab soaked in vinegar to clean areas that need more attention. To clean your screen, take a microfiber cloth and wipe gently in a circular motion, dampened with a light mixture of water and vinegar if necessary.

## Clean cloudy glasses

You may be spending more time gazing into your wine and cocktail glasses (no judgement here) ... shine up those cloudy glasses! Just use a paper towel and a small amount of vinegar to get your glasses clear again.

## Remove cabinet gunk

Mix a solution of coconut oil and baking soda, then use an old toothbrush to scrub all that gunky stuff out of the corners of cabinet interiors. A coarse rag will take care of the surfaces. Bling!

## Clean a burnt pan

You're doing extra cooking and stress-baking ... clean it up! Fill the pan with water and then add a cup of white vinegar. Bring it to a boil, take it off the stove and then add 2 tablespoons of baking soda. Let it sit for a few seconds so it can cool and then wipe the mixture out of the pan.

## Repurpose dryer sheets

Even after they've been used, dryer sheets can work magic around your house. Among other uses, they can buff water spots from mirrors, bathroom/kitchen fixtures and shower doors, and remove the ring inside the toilet.



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## Go on stain patrol

Most of these tricks will work on furniture, fabric and carpet, which are taking a beating with families isolated at home – eating in the living room, spilling juice (ahem and wine), and generally gunking up the place ...

- Juice: Blot with solution of one teaspoon dish washing liquid (like Ivory) in one cup warm water.
- Mustard: Apply repeated applications of detergent solution to remove solids. When stain is reduced, rinse and dry in bright sunlight.
- Lipstick: Blot with acetone-based nail-polish remover, followed by the detergent solution, and rinse.
- Wine: Blot with water. If stain remains, try detergent solution. Three-percent hydrogen peroxide is effective on red wine.
- Grease: To clean grease stains from carpet or other fabric surfaces, just mix four parts rubbing alcohol with one part salt, and then rub the mixture into the stain. Let the surface dry and vacuum up any remaining salt, if necessary. If rubbing alcohol is scarce, try Dawn dishwashing liquid with hot water ...

## Unclog a drain

You don't need harsh chemicals that require a trip to the store to unclog a drain. Pour ½ cup of baking soda into a clogged drain, then 1 cup of white vinegar. Cover and wait – it works just like the volcano you made for that science project! In the meantime, boil water in a sauce pan and then pour down the drain after 15 minutes. Done!

## Clean that stinky garbage disposal

Add a fresh scent to your kitchen by cutting up a lemon and running a couple of small slices through the garbage disposal.

## Clean off that hard water buildup

Vinegar can do wonders for your faucets and shower fixtures that have hard water spots. Dry the fixtures thoroughly, then soak a rag with white vinegar and wrap it tightly around the fixture. Drizzle on more vinegar, and wait for an hour. Unwrap the fixture and use a toothbrush or other brush to remove the buildup. You can remove shower heads and put them in ziplock bags overnight for extra tough buildup. Like new!

## Speed up the clothes-drying process

In a hurry to get back to the sofa in your favorite PJ's? Throw a dry towel in there with the wet laundry and it'll help soak up some of the excess moisture.

## Unblock your air vents

Clean air is a respiratory health issue. If you haven't checked in a while, your air vents are probably pretty dirty and dusty. Not only does that send dust into the room, it also blocks the air from getting out. Easy fix: First try to remove dust with a soft vacuum brush tool. If that doesn't get the job done, then soak a rag with any cleaning agent you have and wrap it around a butter knife to clean the vents.

## Clean your dishwasher

You're using more dishes, and a dirty dishwasher can't do a good job of cleaning and sanitizing those dishes. Get some white vinegar, baking soda and a dishwasher-safe container and get rid of the built up food debris, grease and soap scum:

- Remove the bottom rack for easy access to the dishwasher drain. Get rid of any gunk or food that may be caught inside.
- Fill a dishwasher-safe container with a cup of vinegar and place it on the upper rack. Run the dishwasher through a hot water cycle. Other than the container with vinegar, keep the dishwasher empty!
- Sprinkle about a cup of baking soda across the bottom of the dishwasher and run it through a short cycle using hot water. End result? A bright, clean dishwasher that smells a lot better than it did before! Repeat this process every month to keep your appliance in tip-top condition.

## Clean stove knobs, grates and drip pans

Throw them in the now-clean dishwasher! They'll come out looking like brand new.

## Clean those baseboards

Yes, you probably have baseboards, and yes, they're probably dirty. It's pretty obvious how to do this (rag, soap, water), and it's definitely a job for SOMEONE ELSE in your household who hasn't been pulling their weight. Forward march!

