

13 Simple Housecleaning Tricks You'll Wish You Knew Sooner

BY MICHELLE CROUCH

Housecleaners share the cleaning secrets they use to keep your house spic and span.

Our biggest secret weapon?



ISTOCK/MERCEDES RAMCANO OTERO

A powdered product called **Bar Keepers Friend**. We use it on everything. Its active ingredient is rhubarb powder, which really cuts through grit and grime. It cleans glass-top stoves, counters, toilets, porcelain, and more. Your sink will never be shinier. Learn more about how to clean your kitchen in just five minutes.

The best way to dust blinds?



Slide them, then wipe up and down with an old knee sock. It's easier on sensitive fabrics that help prevent dust from building up again. (Don't use knee socks if cleaning blinds from professional housecleaners.)

Vinegar and water is a great deodorizer for a musty bathroom.



Spray your shower areas in areas getting mold or mildew cleaner for water, but the smell of vinegar goes away in an hour. (Don't use floor when mopping for cleaning your shower while you sleep.)

To damp-mop wood floors, use plain water or a water-based floor cleaner like Bona.



Don't use vinegar. The acid will get your polyurethane finish, can erode your varnish, and may reduce shine over time (not killing for those other cleaning myths, however, and Bona).

Clean cobwebs with a yardstick covered by a tube sock.



This also works for hanging water stains and mold/mildew. Leave alone for 10 hours. (Professional prep work will double your labor costs.)

The Mr. Clean Magic Eraser is your friend.



It will use your cleaning time to buff for furniture, shiny countertops, and shiny walls. Don't use these other 10 cheap housecleaning ideas just to finish.

A wet pumice stone will clean a dirty oven faster than any spray-on product.



That is, don't inhale or have babies near using your stones will cleaning them.

Seventh Generation dish liquid diluted with water is a great nontoxic all-purpose cleanser.



Don't get too greedy in a spray bottle and fill with water. Check our floor care 10 efficient cleaning techniques to see when you're being lazy.

Shine your bathroom tiles with lemon oil.



It also helps remove mold and mildew. Just cut the lime rind out of the ones ones in your house.

To clean glass and mirrors, use coffee filters, not paper towels.



This leaves no streaks or film and does it cheap. Don't waste time cleaning windows that have your house dirty.

Vacuuming bathroom mats is a nightmare.



Use them in the wash every week or two instead. There are 10 more things you didn't know you could do for the washing machine.

To clean your microwave oven, microwave a cup of water with some baking soda in it until it's boiling.



The microwave steam and water it vaporizes in water steam all that grime up and inside your microwave. Don't use paper towel over to clean your kitchen's kitchen appliances.

To eliminate that ring in your toilet, drop in a bubbling denture tablet, and leave it for at least 30 minutes or overnight.



The water will cover off and give a few minutes of the night. It's much cheaper than bleach. It's better especially that and a huge amount of money.