

Wikaniko's Handy Cleaning Tips Around The Home, Using Only Products That Granny Used to Use

(all available in the Wikaniko Shop)

Would you like to get back to doing your cleaning and laundry the natural way?

These days, more and more products are available to apparently make our lives easier – do your laundry quicker, faster, better. Do your cleaning easier.

Generations before us used only one or two products to do absolutely every job around the home. And in the majority of cases they actually did them better than many of today's products. Not only that, they did them cheaper, easier, more thoroughly, and with less harm to the environment! Take a look at these excellent methods, passed down through the generations. Then why not give them a try? The products are all available in the wikaniko shop, or from your local distributor

WASHING UP

Instead of washing-up liquid, use a tablespoon of Borax in a sinkful of water– for very greasy dishes; maybe add a little washing-up liquid as well. Use a tablespoon of Borax in the rinsing water for glassware to prevent water streaks.

CLEANING BLACKENED/BURNT PANS

A strong solution of Soda Crystals is very effective for removing burnt-on grease and food from pans, dishes and grill pans. Soak stubborn debris overnight. NB Soda Crystals are NOT suitable for aluminium pans. For aluminium pans, you can use Borax; it's a mild and gentle cleaner for porcelain and aluminium cookware. Sprinkle Borax on pots and pans and rub with a damp dishcloth

– and don't worry about scratching because Borax is not abrasive. Rinse items thoroughly.

AUTOMATIC DISHWASHER

Make your own automatic dishwasher powder by mixing a tablespoon each of Borax and Bicarbonate of Soda. Use White Vinegar in place of rinse aid. To clean the dishwasher, remove the filter and clean with Liquid Soda Crystals, then clean the machine inside with White Vinegar - or use Aqua Softna Washing Machine Descaler (suitable for Dishwashers too!).

COOKERS AND WORK TOPS

Grease and burnt on food are easily 'dissolved' by Liquid Soda Crystals - leave to soak for a few minutes on stubborn marks and dirt.

TEAPOTS AND CUPS

Tannin stains can be easily removed by leaving a regular solution of Soda Crystals to soak for one hour, or overnight. Then simply wipe away the film with a cloth and rinse with clean water. An alternative quick, effective method of removing stubborn stains from tea and coffee cups is to apply equal parts of White Vinegar and salt into a paste and wipe around the cup with a cloth. Rinse thoroughly.





CHOPPING BOARDS

Scrub with a regular Soda Crystals solution to remove stains and odours. Soda Crystals will leave no residual smell or taste once rinsed.

KETTLES

To remove limescale build up, fill the kettle to just above the element with White Vinegar. Bring to the boil and then leave to cool. Rinse thoroughly before using again.

WASTE BINS

Deodorise your waste bin with Dri-Pak Bicarbonate of Soda. Just sprinkle a small amount into the bottom of a clean, dry bin before use. Clean out waste bins with a regular Soda Crystals solution or Liquid Soda Crystals.

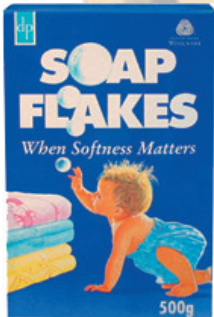


SILVERWARE

Line a large bowl with aluminium foil, mix a strong solution of Soda Crystals with very hot water and add to the bowl. Fully immerse silverware or jewellery for up to 15 minutes. Watch as the dirt dissolves away. Buff with a dry cloth. Alternatively, use a paste of Dri-Pak Laundry Starch and water. Apply with a damp cloth, let dry, and then remove with cheesecloth. Soft stones such as opals should not be cleaned using Soda Crystals.

SCOURING POWDER

Mix a cupful each of Borax, Bicarbonate of Soda and Cooking Salt to make an effective multi-purpose scourer. Apply to the surface and scrub with a damp cloth or sponge.



FLOOR AND QUARRY TILES

Use a strong, hot solution of Soda Crystals to cut through ground-in dirt and grease and leave tiled surfaces sparkling clean. Be aware that Soda Crystals can remove any wax or sealant on the surface. For gentle cleaning, use a solution of Soap Flakes; this will not remove oils and sealants from terracotta tiles.

BLOCKED/DIRTY SINKS

Add Soda Crystals to the plughole and wash through with hot or boiling water. Use a plunger for badly blocked sinks. This is a very effective method and avoids the need to use expensive dangerous caustic drain cleaning chemicals. To remove limescale and watermarks from your draining board, spray a small amount of White Vinegar and wipe. Especially effective on stainless steel.

WASTE DISPOSAL UNITS

Borax helps deodorise waste disposal units by neutralising acidic odours. Sprinkle 2-3 tablespoons in the drain; let it stand for at least 15 minutes, then flush with water for a few seconds with the unit switched on. This treatment can be used for sink drains too.

CLEANING AND DEODORISING FRIDGES AND MICROWAVES

Borax is excellent for cleaning your fridge. Spilled food can be washed away with a sponge or soft cloth using a solution of 1 litre warm water and 1 tablespoon of Borax. Rinse with cold water. For heavy duty cleaning, use Liquid Soda Crystals. As a fridge deodoriser, place an opened box of Bicarbonate of Soda inside and replace every three months – but don't waste it when you're finished; throw it down the drain - it will deodorise that too!

For microwave cleaning use Bicarbonate of Soda on a clean damp sponge to clean gently inside

and outside the microwave – without leaving a harsh chemical smell. Rinse well with water. For freshening between uses, place a box of Bicarbonate of Soda in your microwave (but don't forget to remove the box while using the microwave and be sure to replace it every three months).

CLEANING FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Bicarbonate of Soda is a safe way to clean dirt and residue off fresh fruit and vegetables. Just sprinkle a little on a CLEAN damp sponge, scrub and rinse.

CLEANING FINE CHINA

Fine china will shine brilliantly when rinsed in a solution of Borax (1/2 cup in a sink full of warm water). Hand-painted designs will not fade using this method. Rinse thoroughly with clear water

COOKING

Vegetables: For tender vegetables and pulses that retain their colour, simply add Bicarbonate of Soda to soaking and cooking water. Steaming fruit: A pinch of Bicarb added to stewing water prevents apples from going brown.

BATHS, BASINS AND SHOWERS

Use Liquid Soda Crystals to clean bathroom furniture (but not on lacquered or plated taps and fittings.)

If a scouring powder is required, mix equal quantities of salt, Bicarbonate of Soda and Borax, and sprinkle on a damp sponge or soft cloth and clean. This can even be used on plastic surfaces without scratching. Rinse thoroughly. White Vinegar is an efficient way to remove limescale and soap scum from baths, sinks, tiles and shower screens. Leave to soak on stubborn stains, and rinse clean. (White Vinegar should not be applied to metal plated surfaces.)



LAVATORY PANS

Pour some Soda Crystals down the loo to clean and freshen, and to help prevent blockages. Leave, preferably overnight and if necessary clean with a toilet brush – then use them to clean toilet brushes too! White Vinegar will also clear limescale from around the lavatory bowl. Add to the bowl and leave overnight before flushing away. A severely scaled bowl may need more than one application. Borax is great at deodorising the toilet bowl. Sprinkle 1/4 cup of Borax into the bowl, then swish around with the toilet brush. Let it stand for 30 minutes or if possible, overnight. The bowl will be as fresh as ever.

MIRRORS

An effective way to make your bathroom mirrors gleam without frustrating streaks, is to use White Vinegar. Simply spray, and wipe the surface with a clean cloth.

WASTE PIPES

Use a strong hot solution of Soda Crystals to help keep waste pipes clean and fresh. A regular flushing will help keep waste pipes clear of blockages. Use a plunger for badly blocked drains. To deodorise your bathroom drains and prevent odours from resurfacing, pour half a cup of Bicarbonate of Soda down the drain while running warm tap water. This will neutralise odours for a fresh drain.

DEODORISING

Here's a tip to remember – if you use Bicarbonate of Soda as a fridge or cupboard deodoriser, pour the contents of the old box down the drain to get two uses for the price of one! If your drains lead to a septic tank, Bicarb will help keep the pH balance in the tank at the right level.

SEPTIC TANKS

Soda Crystals, Soap Flakes, Aqua Softna, Bicarbonate of Soda, Borax and Laundry Starch are all safe to use with septic tank sewage systems.

FLOORS AND VINYL TILES

Clean the bathroom floor with a regular solution of Soda Crystals - or try Liquid Soda Crystals but remember, a little goes a long way. Ceramic or vinyl tiles will clean up beautifully - but please note any polish on wood or vinyl floors may be wremoved by using Soda Crystals. A Soap flakes solution can also be used to remove the dirt and grime from a bathroom tile or vinyl floor quickly and easily.



TILES AND GROUTING

Clean wall tiles with a regular Soda Crystals solution, or use Liquid Soda Crystals to leave them clean and sparkling. This will bring new life to grouting too.

SPONGES, FLANNELS AND COMBS

Freshen them up and get rid of that 'greasiness' with a soak in a hot regular solution of Soda Crystals.

SHOWER CURTAINS

Clean and deodorise your vinyl shower curtains by sprinkling Bicarbonate of Soda directly on a clean damp sponge or brush. Scrub the shower curtains and rinse clean. Hang to dry. Mildew on shower curtains can be removed by washing them in a strong Soda Crystals solution made with hot water.

BATHROOM WASTE BINS

Keep bathroom waste bins fresh-smelling with just a sprinkle of Bicarbonate of Soda. Apply regularly as you add to the basket or when empty, wash it with a regular solution of Soda Crystals

GENERAL MACHINE WASH

By adding half a cup of Soda Crystals to your wash load you will soften the water and need to use less of your usual powder. Borax also acts as a natural laundry booster providing extra power and conditioning the water for maximum effectiveness; simply add half a cup to your wash load, along with the recommended dose of soap powder for soft water areas. If you have particularly hard water (high calcium and magnesium content) use Aqua Softna Limescale Preventer – available as powder or tablets in every wash. The Aqua Softna will remove the hardness and prevent limescale building up in the pipework, heating element and pump. This will mean that these components will last longer with less maintenance. If the heating element is kept clear of limescale, it will use less electricity to provide the hot water for your programmes. Using Aqua Softna also reduces the amount of detergent needed; follow the detergent instructions for 'soft water'. If you have not used Aqua Softna Laundry Water Softener regularly - descaling the machine is easy with Aqua Softna Washing Machine Descaler. These can also be used in domestic dishwashers to both clean and descale. White Vinegar can be used to descale kettles, coffeepots and other small domestic appliances.



RINSE CYCLE

Just a half-cup of Bicarbonate of Soda in the rinse cycle, instead of conditioner, neutralises and eliminates harsh odours. There's no perfume cover-up, only clothes that smell naturally fresh and clean. This is ideal for towels, sheets and sportswear.

STAINS

Remove heavy stains on cottons or linens by soaking in a strong solution of Soda Crystals or use Liquid Soda Crystals directly on the stain. Soda Crystals can shift grease, blood, ink, tea and coffee stains.

White Vinegar also acts as an effective stain removal aid on stubborn shirt collar stains. Simply spray onto the affected area, leave to soak for 30 minutes and wash as usual.

DELICATE FABRICS, SILKS AND WOOLLENS

To hand-wash fine materials use a warm, mild solution of Soap Flakes. Rinse in clear, cool water and blot with a towel. Lay woollens flat to dry. Wash according to the instructions on the garment label and those on the Soap Flakes packet.

GREASY WORK CLOTHES AND STAINS

Soda Crystals are renowned for their ability to dissolve grease. Soak greasy clothes and textiles overnight in a strong solution, before washing normally.

Laundry NEW WOOLLENS AND BLANKETS

Soak in a cold, mild solution of Soda Crystals before carefully washing - leaves blankets and woollens soft and fluffy.

NAPPIES

Rinse out nappies and begin soaking immediately, using half a cup of Borax for each bucket of warm water or soak them in a strong solution of Soda Crystals. Follow soaking with a warm machine wash, use Aqua Softna to soften the machine water and save on detergent. Add a small amount of White Vinegar instead of fabric conditioner to produce a soft and absorbent fabric.

OUTDOOR WEAR AND MICROFIBRES

Specially treated microfibre fabrics such as waterproof sports and outdoor clothing are best cleaned with Soap Flakes. Regatta, a leading family outdoor clothing brand, recommends using Dri-Pak Soap Flakes when washing Isotex fabric garments. Soap Flakes are so delicate they will not affect the performance of the garment.

LINENS AND COTTONS

Mix a paste of 1 tablespoon of Laundry Starch in 2 tablespoons of cold water. Add a litre of hot water, stirring vigorously. Immerse articles in the mixture, then spin or wring (follow garment manufacturer's instructions). Iron whilst damp with a hot iron.

For linens, add a tablespoon of Borax to improve the finish and prevent the iron from sticking.

Make your own spray Starch: fill a spray bottle with a litre of cold water and mix in 2 tablespoons of Laundry Starch. Shake before each use. For normal Laundry Starch, stir half a cup of Starch into one cup of cold water. Add boiling water (2 litres for heavy finish or stiffness, 4 litres for medium finish, and 6 litres for light finish). Dip clothes into the mixture and dry. Sprinkle lightly with warm water and iron as usual.

PAINTWORK

Paintwork (and UPVC window frames) will brighten after a wipe-down with Liquid Soda Crystals or use a regular solution of Soda Crystals in warm water. You can prepare bare wood for painting too with a regular solution. Rinse well with clean water after treating surfaces with Soda Crystals.



CLEANING WINDOWS AND MIRRORS

An ideal method of achieving clean, streak free windows is to use White Vinegar, and buff using an old newspaper – leaving you with windows your neighbours will envy. For very dirty windows and mirrors clean first with a mild soda solution, then polish off with a White Vinegar clean.

BLINDS

A wipe with a regular solution of Soda Crystals will brighten Venetian blinds, and help to shrug off dust.

CANE FURNITURE

Cane and wicker furniture will come clean after a wash with a regular Soda Crystals solution. Not only that, Soda Crystals will help to harden the cane and tighten sagging seats. Beware, loose lacquer or varnish may be removed by Soda Crystals.

UPHOLSTERY

Dab upholstery with a mild Soda Crystals solution to get rid of stains or simply to freshen up the fabric. Take care not to scrub wool or other upholstery fabrics - it could damage them. Always test fabrics for colour fastness before using Soda Crystals.

Leather upholstery can be cleaned with a mild solution of Soap Flakes in warm water. Do not apply too much soap or there will be excess suds; rinse gently after cleaning to remove all the soapy water.

UNBLOCKING AND CLEANING DRAINS

Because Soda Crystals dissolve grease, they're great for unblocking drains and waste pipes. Use a strong solution to flush drains regularly to keep them grease-free. Use a plunger for blocked drains.

BRASS AND PEWTER

Brass and pewter will polish much more easily if first washed in a strong, hot solution of Soda Crystals.

WINE AND FOOD STAINS

Red wine and food stains can be treated with a strong solution of Soda Crystals. Large spillages can be treated by applying dry crystals directly to the stain, followed by rinsing in clean water. Use Soda Crystals for ink and grass stains too. Always test fabrics for colour fastness before using Soda Crystals.

DECORATING

Use a regular solution of Soda Crystals instead of sugar soap to wipe down walls and wood work prior to painting and wall paper hanging. Use a paste made from Laundry Starch to clean stains off wallpapers (test for colourfastness first!). Rub on with a soft, clean cloth and then brush off.

CARPETS AND RUGS

Deodorise by sprinkling Bicarbonate of Soda on the carpet. Leave over night and then vacuum off.

WOODEN FLOORS

To clean outdoor wooden floors and decking, dissolve a medium solution of Soda Crystals in hot water and mop as usual to make a moss and algae free surface with reduced slip factor!

To prepare wooden flooring for varnishing or painting, make sure that all debris and flakes are removed and mop with a strong Soda Crystals solution.

Indoor wooden and laminate flooring can be cleaned with Soap Flakes. Mop the Soap Flake



solution sparingly onto real wood floors, and immediately mop with fresh water. Change solutions when they look dirty in the bucket to prevent re-spreading dirt around the floor.

PET ODOURS

Borax is a very effective odour neutraliser. Spills on carpets or upholstery will cause stains or leave offensive odours. Borax can help with some of these problem stains. Before treating carpet or upholstery, test an unexposed area with a Borax paste to make sure the dye is colourfast to spot treatment. Deodorise pet bedding: Eliminate odours from pet bedding by sprinkling liberally with Bicarbonate of Soda, wait 15 minutes (or longer for stronger odours), then vacuum up. Deter your pet: Another quick, simple method of removing pet urine odour on furniture is to spray White Vinegar to the affected area. This will remove the unpleasant smell, and deter your pet from returning to the same spot.

MATTRESSES AND SPILLS

Neutralise urine and sour spilled milk odours from mattresses and mattress covers by dampening the spot and sprinkling Borax or bicarb over it, rub into the areas and let dry. Brush or vacuum to remove the dry powder.

In the Garden

BARBECUES

Soda Crystals are ideal for cleaning greasy barbecues and tools. If possible soak components in a strong hot solution for an hour or more before rinsing well with clean water. Use a strong solution to scrub grills and pans with a stiff brush.

PATHS, STONE WORK AND PATIOS

A regular solution of Soda Crystals washed over the paving will remove moss and slimy leaf material. Well established moss on paths, steps, drives, tennis courts etc. is best removed by spreading Soda Crystals over the area and leaving overnight before washing off with clean water. The solution will not do any harm if washed into the soil, but it is best to avoid covering growing plants. Keep Soda Crystals away from ponds and aquatic life.



OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Plastic or wooden furniture can be cleaned with Soda Crystals. Use a strong solution in hot water and rinse well. Liquid Soda Crystals in the trigger spray bottle is especially useful for wiping over tabletops.

RUST REMOVER

Cover rusty tools, gates and other equipment with Bicarbonate of Soda, then pour on White Vinegar to make the solution bubble. When the action stops, scrub off with a stiff brush.

NB. Do not use Soda Crystals on aluminium.

For more information please visit
www.wikaniko.com