



# NATURAL CLEANING HACKS FOR YOUR HOME

## Your Home Matters!

I'm always happy to help and make sure you feel knowledgeable! You can expect me to keep you informed and be a great resource for lenders, contractors, home maintenance tips, and real estate goals and strategies.



## MARK BAKER

REALTOR & Property  
Investment Specialist

(720) 257-1541  
[mark@5280core.com](mailto:mark@5280core.com)  
[www.520core.com](http://www.520core.com)



**FORGET FANCY CLEANING PRODUCTS.**

**INGREDIENTS YOU ALREADY HAVE ON HAND  
– LIKE LIMES, BAKING SODA AND VINEGAR –**

**WORK JUST AS WELL AT CUTTING THROUGH THE GRIME!**





I often get asked for tips on how to maintain the sparkle and shine!

A well-maintained home can reflect that we care, so it's no surprise that people are looking for ideas for keeping up on cleaning and home maintenance! Also, there are many known benefits to keeping a clean and well-maintained home!

Cleaning, coupled with the end result of a cleaner home, can help reduce stress, feelings of anxiety, and fatigue, and can also improve concentration.

**Even 20 minutes a week of household cleaning can reduce feelings of stress!** And who doesn't want that!

There are many other reasons to keep a clean home. They include:

- Reducing allergy and asthma symptoms ...
- Improving safety ...
- Lessening the spread of germs ...
- Keeping pests away ...
- Preventing potential damage and repair costs ...
- Improving overall feelings of well being ...

What I have assembled here are Natural Home Cleaning Hacks to save time, money and sanity!!

# NATURAL HOME CLEANING HACKS

to keep your home fresh and clean and to save time,  
money and of course, sanity!

## 1. Buff surfaces with olive oil

Olive oil has many nutritional benefits. Turns out it can also help you clean the house. Olive oil is a great option for cleaning stainless steel, such as pots, pans and appliances. Put olive oil on a soft cloth and rub in a circular motion to buff out any dirty spots.

## 2. Detox the garbage disposal with lemons or limes

The garbage disposal does a lot of dirty work on a regular basis, so it's important to keep it clean and clog-free. To clean and deodorize garbage disposals, use a fresh lemon or lime. Cut the citrus fruit into quarters, and while you have the water running put the lemon pieces one by one into the disposal.

## 3. Remove carpet stains with vodka

Rubbing alcohol, clear vodka (which has a lot of cleaning benefits!) and even white wine can be used for this cleaning hack. First blot the stain. Second, pour any type of clear alcohol (rubbing alcohol, vodka, white wine) onto the stain and blot.

## 4. Eliminate water stains with shaving cream

Who'd have thought that shaving cream could be used to clean? It is a great way to remove water stains from shower glass. Apply the shaving cream and let it sit for 15 minutes, then wipe off.

## 5. Baking soda and vinegar will basically clean the tub for you

Mix one cup vinegar, half a cup of baking soda with hot water and pour into [an empty] tub and allow to sit for five minutes. Start filling the tub with hot water until it is approximately one-quarter filled, and let it sit for an additional five minutes. Then release drain and rinse thoroughly.

## 6. Use the same solution to clean toilets

You can use the same concoction to freshen up your toilet. Just let it soak for a bit, then flush and wipe the seat.

## 7. Essential oils for a sparkling toilet

Mix one cup of baking soda with 15 drops of tea tree essential oil and 15 drops of lemon or orange essential oil. Let the mixture sit in the bowl for 30 minutes and scrub with a bowl brush before flushing.

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### 8. A DIY aromatherapy cleaning solution for shining sinks and tubs

Get your sink or tub to shine by mixing baking soda, drops of lemon and basil essential oils and dish soap. Sponge the mixture on the surface of your bathtub and bathroom sink for 10 minutes. After rinsing off with water, they will be glistening.

### 9. Steam the microwave with lemon oil

You can also use essential oils to clean the microwave. Add 15 drops of lemon essential oil into one and a half cups water to a microwave-safe bowl, and microwave on high for five to 10 minutes, allowing the steam to condense on inside walls/ceilings of your machine. Once complete, simply wipe away the softened food with a sponge.

### 10. DIY Glass Cleaner

If you don't feel like running to the store for more glass cleaner, making your own is easy: Mix white vinegar, distilled water, drops of an essential oil and shake. This is an affordable and easy way to clean your windows, mirrors or even shower doors if you're in a pinch.

### 11. Lemon oil (and baking soda) for the stovetop and oven

Lemon essential oil is a great degreaser and can be an excellent tool to remove stubborn grease stains naturally. Spray a mixture of one cup water, one cup vinegar and lemon essential oil onto your stovetop and wipe clean. If you sprinkle baking soda, let sit for an hour, and simply wipe clean. The same technique can be used to clean the oven.

### 12. Remove pet hair with rubber gloves

When your standard vacuum doesn't seem to get all your pet's hair, rubber gloves will get the job done. Just slide them on and rub down any areas that need extra cleaning. Rinse the gloves under running water when done and the hair will unstick.

### 13. Dust electronics with coffee filters

Coffee filters are useful items to keep around. They are perfect for clearing dust from TV screens, computer monitors and any other screens around the home, without leaving behind any fibers like towels do.

### 14. Clean ceiling fans with a pillowcase

Instead of using a rag to clean the ceiling fan, which usually results in dust falling onto your furniture and floors, try using a pillowcase. Slip it in between the fan blades and swipe one at a time.

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### 15. Spruce up the mattress with baking soda & vinegar

It's important to clean your mattress often to avoid dust mites, dead skin cells, etc. For stain removal especially, try spraying the mattress with vinegar and sprinkle baking soda over the top. You can place a towel over the area and let it sit for one to two hours. Then take your vacuum and go over the mattress for a final clean.

### 16. Dust window blinds with old socks

Blinds can sometimes be a hassle to clean. Take 50/50 vinegar and water mixture with an old clean sock, swipe the sock over each section and the embedded dust and dirt will come right off your blinds.

### 17. Repurpose Dryer Sheets

Even after they've been used, dryer sheets can work magic around your house. Here are some things they can do:

- Buff water spots from mirrors, bath/kitchen fixtures and shower doors
- Remove the ring inside the toilet
- Wipe baseboards clean

### 18. Tackle a Stinky Garbage Disposal With Lemon

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

### 19. Clean the Blender

Fill your blender with warm water and a drop of dish soap. Turn it on and let it go for a few seconds. Then just rinse it out with warm water.

### 20. Clean Your Sponge

Sponges can pick up a lot of bacteria, especially if they're left in the sink. Pop the wet sponge in the microwave for 30 seconds to remove any bacteria. Just wait a minute or two before pulling out since it'll still be hot. You can also pop your sponge in the dishwasher to get it nice and clean.

### 21. Use Vinegar To Get Rid of Hard Water Spots

Vinegar can do wonders for your faucets that have hard water spots. Check out this video to see how it works!

### 22. Use Baking Soda for Brighter, Cleaner Laundry

Just pour a cup of baking soda in with the wash and your clothes will come out even brighter and cleaner!

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### 23. Get Tile Floors Looking Like New Again

Once you've vacuumed the floor, grab a bucket of water, some light detergent and a rag. Then start scrubbing! Make sure to clean the rag and water frequently to make sure you aren't just pushing dirt around on the floor. If you really want to get the tough spots out, try using a toothbrush!

### 24. Clean the Baseboards

If it's been a while, first use a broom or dry rag to sweep off the dust and then vacuum the area. Then use a wet cloth or sock to remove any remaining dust or dirt. To clean the baseboards, you need a sponge and a bucket of water with a small amount of dish detergent. Once you're done washing, then use a damp rag to remove any leftover soap residue.

### 25. Clean Air Vents

If you haven't checked in a while, you will likely find that your air vents are pretty dirty. 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, soak a rag with any cleaning agent you have and wrap it around a butter knife to clean the vents!

### 26. Clean Stainless Steel Appliances

Stainless steel appliances seem to get stained with fingerprints constantly. To give them a good, clean shine, all you need is a microfiber cloth (or just a soft cloth) and some rubbing alcohol! If you really want to get your stainless steel super clean, you can use a few drops of olive oil!

More ways to clean stainless steel:

- Use dish soap and water to clean the surface, dry 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.

### 27. Remove Shower Scum

Cleaning the bathroom is not how most people want to spend their day, but it has to be done! The good news is there's an easy way to remove soap scum and grime that's building up inside the shower. Fill a dish wand with half vinegar and half dish soap, and then get to scrubbing! You can also use an old sponge or toothbrush and just dip it into a cup of the same solution.

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## 28. Clean Your Upholstery With Baking Soda

Baking soda can help remove any lingering smells and break up any stains on the fabric. First, brush off the surface of the couch, then sprinkle baking soda on the area you want to clean. Just let it sit for about 20 minutes, then vacuum it up using the brush attachment.

## 29. Clean Your Computer (Safely)

There are certain chemicals you should never use on or anywhere near your computer, including: Acetone, Ethyl alcohol, Toluene, Ethyl acid, Ammonia & Methyl chloride.

When cleaning your computer, avoid using paper products, don't use harsh chemicals and never spray product directly on the screen. Here's a safe and easy way to clean your computer:

- To clean the keyboard, 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.
- Apply a mixture of light water and vinegar if necessary.

## 30. Clean Cloudy Eye Glasses With Vinegar

Just use a paper towel and a small amount of vinegar to get your glasses nice and clean again!

## 31. Remove Grease Stains

To clean grease stains from carpet or other surfaces, mix four parts rubbing alcohol with one part salt and rub the mixture into the stain. Let the surface dry and then vacuum up any remaining salt if necessary. Test an inconspicuous area first!

## 32. Clean Up Dust, Dirt and Crumbs Using Tape and/or a Lint Roller

Use a strong adhesive tape or a lint roller to pick up dust, dirt and crumbs pretty much anywhere around the house — lamp shades, drawers, fabrics — anything!

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## 33. Use Toothpaste To Clean Sneakers

All you need is an old toothbrush and a little white toothpaste to get the white parts of your sneakers looking like new again!

## 34. Remove Cabinet Gunk

Mix a solution of vegetable oil and baking soda, and then use an old toothbrush to scrub all that gunky stuff out of the corners of cabinet surfaces.

## 35. Clean a Burnt Pan With Vinegar, Water and Baking Soda

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 two tablespoons of baking soda. Let it sit for a few seconds so it can cool and then wipe the mixture out of the pan.

## 36. Pick Up Small Pieces of Glass

Don't try to use your hands to pick up tiny shards of glass. Instead, grab a piece of bread and press it down over the area. It should pick up those little pieces you don't want stuck in your fingers or the bottom of your feet!

## 37. Clean Up Glitter

If you like to keep things tidy, glitter is probably one of your nightmares. The good news is that there is actually a solution to your problem. If you have glitter around, you probably also have Play-Doh. Just use a ball of Play-Doh to pick up all those little glitter pieces! (If you don't have Play-Doh, just use something sticky like tape!)

## 38. Get Your Rings Shining Again

First of all, don't use household cleaners that may contain harsh chemicals on your rings. The easiest and safest way to clean an engagement ring or other type of ring with precious metals is to use warm water, a small amount of dish washing soap and a soft toothbrush. Mix the solution of water and soap and let the ring soak for 10-20 minutes. Then use a soft toothbrush to clean off any excess dirt, makeup or anything else still lingering.

## 39. Freshen Up Smelly Sneakers

Sprinkle some baking soda in your sneakers to keep them smelling fresh, and then when you're ready to wear them again, just tap it out outside.

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### 40. Clean the Bottom of Dirty Cleats and Sneakers With a Toothbrush

Run hot water on the bottom of the shoes and use a toothbrush to scrub off any remaining mud or dirt that won't wash off with water.

### 41. Remove Common Household Stains

Most of these will work on both furniture and carpet. Always test an inconspicuous area first!

- Juice: Blot with solution of one tsp dishwashing liquid (like Ivory) in one cup warm water.
- Gravy: Pretreat with a paste of Fels-Naptha soap, then wash. Repeat if necessary. Don't put item in the dryer until the stain is gone.
- 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 the detergent solution. Three-percent hydrogen peroxide is effective on red wine.

### 42. Unclog a Drain

All you need is vinegar, baking soda and boiling water to unclog a drain.

### 43. Use Your Vacuum Attachments!

Use vacuum attachments to dust and clean the blinds, vents, cabinets and pretty much anything else you notice is dusty as you make your way through the house. This is great for a quick clean before guests come over. Grab those attachments and they'll get the work done in a hurry!

### 44. Speed Up the Clothes-Drying Process

In a hurry and put your clothes in the dryer a little late? Throw a dry towel in there and it'll help soak up some of the excess moisture. And if you're worried about towel fuzz, just turn your clothing inside out while it dries.

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### 45. Clean the Microwave

Put equal amounts of water and vinegar in a microwave-safe bowl, along with a small wooden object, such as a toothpick, to prevent boiling. Then set it on high for 5 to 10 minutes. Wait a few minutes to let it cool, then when you open it up, all you have to do is wipe down the inside of the microwave with a sponge or paper towel.

### 46. Clean the Dishwasher

If your dishwasher isn't clean, it can't do its job of cleaning your dishes. Keeping the appliance in tip-top shape will also make it last longer. There's an easy way to get rid of all that nasty built-up food debris, grease and soap scum. Gather some white vinegar, baking soda and a dishwasher-safe container. Follow these three steps to make your dishwasher sparkle!

**Step 1:** Remove the bottom rack for easy access to the dishwasher drain. Get rid of any gunk or food that may be caught inside.

**Step 2:** 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!

**Step 3:** Sprinkle about a cup of baking soda across the bottom of the dishwasher and run it through a short cycle using hot water.

Repeat every month to keep your appliance in tip-top condition!

### 47. Clean Stove Knobs, Grates and Drip Pans

Throw them in the dishwasher! They'll come out looking like brand new!

### 48. Use Magic Erasers on Pretty Much Anything ...

Magic Erasers can clean pretty much any and everything in your house, including:

- Converse shoes (white tip & sides)
- Faucets
- Shower curtain liners
- Sinks
- Toilets
- Bathtubs
- Toothbrush holders
- Removing red wine stains from a wall



## *Your Home Matters*

I am always available to answer any questions about the real estate market or help in any way!

I look forward to working with you to help you achieve all of your real estate goals.



*Mark Baker*

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INVESTMENT SPECIALIST

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