

Clean Ocean Action's 10 Tips For Cleaning



Many household products contain ingredients that are hazardous to human health and the environment. The following suggestions are some simple, homemade solutions that have proven to be safe and effective.

1. **General cleaning:** use a natural cleaning product, such as Bon Ami instead of chemical cleansers, or 1/2 cup borax dissolved in 1 gallon hot water, or add 1/2 cup washing soda (sodium carbonate) to 1 bucket warm water. For tough stains, use half a lemon dipped in borax and rub.
2. **Mildew:** mix borax and white vinegar to make a rubbing paste.
3. **Drain cleaner:** for clogs, pour 1/2-cup baking soda down the drain followed by 1-cup white vinegar. Allow mixture to foam for several minutes then flush with 1-gallon boiling water. To maintain your drain, pour 1/4-cup salt down the drain followed by boiling water.
4. **Rust stains** on porcelain: put catsup over the stain and leave for a few hours. Wipe clean. Works especially well for rust stains in the tub and sink.
5. **Glass cleaner:** mix 1 quart white vinegar and 1 quart warm water. The glass may first need to be cleaned with rubbing alcohol to remove residue from commercial glass cleaners.
6. **Metal polish:** for silver, add 1 tablespoon each of baking soda and salt to boiling water. Drop in silver and boil for 3 minutes; polish with soft cloth. For brass, mix equal parts of flour and salt into a small amount of vinegar and rub. For copper, rub with mixture of lemon juice and salt. For chrome, use rubbing alcohol on a dry rag.
7. **Carpet cleaner:** mix 2 parts cornmeal with 1 part borax. Sprinkle on carpet and leave for one hour, then vacuum. For stains, dampen stained area then rub in borax. Let stand until dry, then vacuum.
8. **Laundry products:** use soaps and non-phosphate detergents, such as Ivory Snow, Borax, and Ecover.
9. **Bleach alternative:** use full strength borax and water or non-chlorine bleach. If you must use bleach, do so sparingly, not for every wash.
10. **Floor and furniture polish:** dust with slightly dampened cloth instead of a commercial dusting product. For unfinished furniture use vegetable oil; for finished furniture use butcher's wax or lemon oil.



Nonpoint source or "pointless" pollution is the number one cause of coastal water pollution. Pointless pollution is caused by many sources, including runoff of litter, pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides and soil erosion, leaky septic systems, and faulty sewage and stormwater systems. Though people and their everyday habits are often the source of pollution, we can easily become the solution. By keeping informed and making small changes, you can make our ocean fishable, swimmable, and healthy.

Please indicate other tips you would like to receive:

- Anglers
- Beach
- Boaters
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- Drivers
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- "No Butts About It: Use Your Ashtray"
- Personal Watercraft Operators
- Shore Visitors



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If you have a pointless pollution tip, send it our way and we'll share it with others. To sponsor a tip card, contact COA's Events and Development Director at 732-872-0111.

For more information visit www.CleanOceanAction.org

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