



Clean It Green It

Bayfield Wisconsin



Green Your Cleaning Routine

We are surrounded by natural beauty in this community we live in on the lake. You are invited to help in taking care of our natural resources by living in a manner that ensures the health of Lake Superior and its watershed. Everything we use and put into our drains, toilets and sewers works its way into our sanitary system and eventually into the lake -- everything flows down the hill.

Everybody wants a clean and healthy home. Taking the “green” approach when cleaning avoids the use of hazardous products, protecting your health and the environment.

The City of Bayfield, an eco-municipality, is providing you with supplies for a **Green Cleaning Kit** and recipes to make your own green cleaners.



Make a Green Cleaning Kit

Use these recipes to make green cleaners with the supplies provided in the Bayfield Clean It ~ Green It Kit.

- ◆ Baking soda
- ◆ White vinegar
- ◆ Liquid castile soap (mild soap made with olive or other vegetable oils)
- ◆ Reusable cleaning cloths
- ◆ *Add your own recycled spray bottle for cleaning recipes.*



All purpose cleaner:

- ◆ Liquid castile soap

For spots on woodwork, tile and linoleum, add a few drops of liquid castile soap to a wet washcloth and rub surface briskly. Rinse and wipe thoroughly to remove any leftover streaks.





Copper cleaner:

- ◆ White vinegar
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Salt

Mix equal parts of vinegar and salt (a tablespoon of each should be enough to start, make more as necessary) and apply to the surface with a rag. Be sure to rinse thoroughly with water afterwards, otherwise it will corrode. Don't use on lacquered finishes.



Drain cleaner:

- ◆ Baking soda
- ◆ White vinegar
- ◆ Boiling water

This recipe frees minor clogs and helps prevent future clogs. Pour 1/2-cup baking soda down the drain first, follow with 1/2-cup vinegar.

Let it fizz for a few minutes. Then pour down a tea-kettle full of boiling water. Repeat if needed. If the clog is stubborn, use a plunger. If very stubborn, use a mechanical snake.





Linoleum and wood floor cleaner:

- ◆ White vinegar
- ◆ Water

Mop with a mixture of 1/2-cup vinegar in a bucket of warm water. The vinegar odor will go away shortly after the floor dries.

For particularly dirty wood floors, add a few tablespoons of castile soap. Mop and rinse with warm water.



Oven cleaner:

- ◆ Baking soda
- ◆ Water

Mix 1 cup of baking soda with enough water to make a paste. Apply to oven surfaces and let stand for about 15 minutes. Use a scouring pad for scrubbing most surfaces. A spatula or a bread knife is effective to get under large food deposits. Do not use this recipe on self-cleaning ovens. Commercial oven cleaners can cause severe irritation or respiratory conditions.





Toilet bowl cleaner:

- ◆ Baking soda
- ◆ Liquid castile soap

Sprinkle baking soda inside the bowl as you would any scouring powder. Add a couple drops of soap in also. Scrub with a toilet brush and finish outside surfaces with a damp cloth sprinkled with baking soda.



Tub and sink cleaner:

- ◆ Baking soda
- ◆ Liquid castile soap

Sprinkle baking soda on the porcelain fixtures and rub with wet rag. Add a little of the liquid castile soap to the rag for more cleaning power. Rinse well to avoid a hazy film.





Window and mirror cleaner:

- ◆ White vinegar
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Newspaper, crumpled

Fill spray bottle with 1/4-cup white vinegar, then fill to the top with water. Shake bottle to combine. Spray on the surface. Rub with a lint-free rag or a torn and wadded up newspaper page.

For outdoor windows: Use a sponge and wash with warm water that has a few drops of liquid castile soap in it. Rinse well and squeegee dry.



More green cleaning ideas:

Disinfectant: Add 1/2-cup borax to one gallon of water. Alternative: Hydrogen Peroxide (3% solution) can be used as a mild bleach.

Tile cleaner: Dip the cut side of 1/2 a lemon into borax and use as a scrubber on stains on tile or other surfaces.

Dishwasher: Put 1 tbsp. ea. baking soda and borax in dishwasher soap dispenser, add vinegar to rinse dispenser.





Avoid putting these items down the drain:

- ◆ Don't dispose of unused medications by flushing down the toilet.
- ◆ Don't pour cooking oil or grease down the kitchen sink drain.
- ◆ Don't dump paint, pesticides, chemicals or oil down drains when spring cleaning.



Disclaimer:

All information contained here is general in nature and not intended as a substitute for appropriate professional advice.

For more information:

To learn more about “green cleaning” check out these helpful Web sites:

www.greenguide.com

www.greenseal.org

www.treehugger.com

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