

The amount of water available for our use depends on its quality. Each time we use water we change the quality by adding substances such as municipal sewage, toxic chemicals, solvents, detergents, pesticides, fertilizers, sediment, oil-based compounds, debris, and waste heat. Polluted water can spread disease, kill aquatic life, destroy plants and animals, and make rivers and lakes unfit for recreation. Because our water supply is limited, cleaning our used water and safeguarding our clean water is an important part of using our resources wisely.

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our water supplies safe. Everyday activities affect water quality. By being cautious about the use of hazardous substances - pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, paints, fuels - and the disposal of all types of waste, every citizen can help keep our water resources safe and clean. Contaminants are commonly derived from municipal, agricultural, and industrial wastewater. This includes residues from personal care and cleaning products. By removing these toxins, we can get one step closer to cleaner.

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The Rivanna River is often referred to as “Mr. Jefferson’s River.” Thomas Jefferson grew up on the shores of the Rivanna and later built his Monticello home along its banks. Sharing Mr. Jefferson’s appreciation for this historic river, a group of Fluvanna County residents established The Rivanna Conservation Society (RCS) in 1990.

RCS is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization created in 1990. As the “Voice of the Rivanna,” RCS’s mission is to safeguard the ecological, recreational, historical, cultural and scenic resources of the Rivanna River and its tributaries. RCS sponsors events and hosts activities throughout the watershed, including river paddles, riverbank and instream clean-ups, public education forums, teacher and student education, training and water quality monitoring events, riparian buffer plantings and watershed restoration projects.



# Household Cleaners





# Glass Cleaner

## Ingredients

- 1/4 c white vinegar (apple cider vinegar will work as well)
- 1/4 c rubbing alcohol
- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 2 c water

## Directions

- Combine everything in a spray bottle.
- Shake well to mix.
- Spray onto glass surface and wipe clean.



# Toilet Bowl Cleaner

## Ingredients

- 3/4 c Borax
- 1 c white vinegar
- 10 drops essential oil

## Directions

- Combine ingredients in bowl.
- Swish toilet bowl to wet and dump ingredients inside.
- Allow to sit overnight and scrub.



# Citrus Cleaner

## Ingredients

- Recycled Glass containers
- Orange peels  
(Or any other citrus fruit peels.)
- 1 tbsp Salt (any kind)
- Vinegar
- Distilled Water
- 5-10 drops Essential oil (optional)

## Directions

- Cut orange peels and fill any empty glass containers you have on hand. If you don't have glass containers you can fill any containers that you have.
- Add some salt to the orange peels and let them sit for 20-30 minutes (or longer). This will pull the oils from the peels and ultimately make your cleaning solution stronger. You only need enough salt to lightly cover the peels.
- Fill the containers with vinegar and water. You can do all vinegar and leave it as is, you can do all vinegar and then add the water at the end of step 5, or you can do 1/2 water and 1/2 vinegar.
- Put a tight fitting lid on the jars and let the solution sit for 2-3 weeks. The longer it sits the better.
- Strain the solution and fill a squirt bottle with your natural orange cleaner. If you are using essential oils you will add them at this time.

# Dusting Spray

## Ingredients

- 1 tbsp natural dish soap (like Seventh Generation)
- 15 drops lemon essential oil (or another one you really like)
- 2 c water

## Directions

- Pour ingredients into a spray bottle and shake gently to combine.
- Either spray onto surface and wipe clean with a cloth, or spray it directly on the cloth and then wipe down the surface.



# Liquid Dish Soap

## Ingredients

- 1/2 c liquid castile soap
- 1/8 c water
- 4 drops essential oil scent of choice
- 1 tsp homemade all-purpose citrus cleaner (recipe above)  
(1 tsp of vinegar can be an alternate here)

## Directions

- Simply mix everything together and store it in an old liquid dish soap bottle.
- Use as you would store-bought liquid dish soap.

