

Environmental Friendly Tack Cleaning

Use vinegar to clean stainless steel bits and other metal fittings like buckles and stirrup irons. Rinse bits off well so your horse doesn't get a nasty taste in its mouth. Did you know that vinegar removes rust too?

1. Apply undiluted white vinegar to the rust by spraying or dabbing it on (if the object is large), or by submerging the rusted object in vinegar (if the object is small).
2. Allow the vinegar to soak in for 30 minutes. Then, rinse the object off; and dry thoroughly.
3. Repeat the process, if rust remains.

Rust Remover Recipe II

INGREDIENTS

- Borax
- Lemon juice

PREPARATION

1. Mix together equal parts Borax and lemon juice.
2. Apply the resulting solution to the rust by spraying or dabbing it on (if the object is large), or by submerging the object in a bath of the solution (if the object is small).
3. Allow the solution to soak in for 30 minutes. Then, rinse the object off; and dry thoroughly.
4. Repeat the process, if rust remains.

Mix vinegar and salt to clean brass or copper harness, saddle, or bridle fittings. About 1 tsp salt to 1 cup vinegar usually does the trick. Rub it on and then wipe off with a damp cloth, or soak the item in a jar of the mixture, then rinse it off well. Or try this tarnish remover:

For a low-cost, low-elbow grease way to clean the copper and brass around your home try this eco friendly tarnish buster:

What You Need

- Baking soda
- White vinegar

- A cleaning cloth

What You Do:

Mix baking soda and white vinegar together to create a paste. Then, rub the paste into the copper or brass object that you wish to clean. Rinse, and buff with a dry cloth; and enjoy that like-new gleam!

Why This Works:

The acetic acid in the vinegar and the sodium in the baking soda works together to dissolve the tarnish.

Benefits of Using a Baking Soda/Vinegar Polish:

- inexpensive
- chemical-free
- food-safe
- environmentally-friendly
- fast-acting

Tips:

- 1) Be sure to use a soft cloth. Stiff brushes, scouring pads and other scratchy tools can damage copper
- 2) If the object you're cleaning is badly tarnished, you may need to repeat the process
- 3) This polish can also be used to clean bronze

You probably want your show shirts, stocks and bandages snowy white. But chlorine bleach is hard on the environment. Try these natural bleach alternatives from About Frugal Living guide Erin Huffstetler:

Chlorine bleach is tough on your clothes, the environment and your wallet, so replace that bulky jug with something better: a lemon. The only thing it's tough on is dirt.

To Whiten Clothes

Add a cup of lemon juice to the wash cycle to boost the whitening action of your laundry detergent.

To Remove Stains from Clothing

Pour lemon juice over the stain. Then, rub the area with salt; and place the garment out in the sun

for several hours. Wash as usual.

Did you leave a shirt, some leg wraps or a jacket in the trailer by accident after it was rained on? Zap mildew with vinegar too. Here's another tip for mildew removal

Store-bought mold and mildew removers aren't good for your lungs or your pocket book; so skip them, and make your own highly-effective natural mildew cleaner. To do so, simply fill a spray bottle with equal parts white vinegar and water. Then, zap that mold or mildew wherever it lurks.

Another cleaning option: Soak a sponge in the vinegar/water solution, and wipe down any areas with mold or mildew growth.

Why This Works

The acetic acid in vinegar kills mold and mildew, and also inhibits the growth of future mold and mildew.

Benefits of Cleaning with Vinegar

- inexpensive
- no harsh chemicals
- natural mold and mildew remover and growth inhibitor

Warnings

- 1) Do not reuse empty cleaner bottles. Buy a new bottle to use for your vinegar spray
- 2) Keep out of the reach of children
- 3) As with any cleaner, you should avoid all contact with the eyes and prolonged contact with the skin

Here's a great recipe for mechanics soap, that would be useful after working in the barn or greasing the cart wheels or trailer door hinges.

Tough grime deserves tough soap. Here's a cheap and easy recipe for mechanic's/ gardener's soap:

Difficulty: Easy

Time Required: 5 minutes or less

Here's How:

Fill an empty container with dish soap – enough for one hand washing or enough to wash your hands a bunch of times. The choice is yours.

Then, add corn meal to the soap – just a sprinkle for a small batch and as much as a

tablespoon for a big batch.

Stir the mixture up, and rub a bit between your fingers to test the grittiness.

Add corn meal (if needed) until you reach the right consistency.

Use immediately, or store in an air-tight container for future use.

What You Need:

- Dish soap
- Corn meal