

● Your Perfectly Organized Life

Save \$200!

Just switch to these natural cleaners you *already* own!

Turns out, you can shave a lot of money from your grocery list by cleaning with natural products you're likely to already have on hand. And experts say these thrifty green cleaners work as well as, if not better than, than their costlier chemical counterparts!

Erase bathroom tile and grout stains with hydrogen peroxide!

Need to remove mold and mildew stains? Hydrogen peroxide can do the job! "Just put it in a spray bottle and spritz," says Caroline Blazovsky of HealthyHomeExpert.com. "Wait about an hour, then wipe the area with a clean cloth." Hydrogen peroxide is an effective disinfectant that kills 99% of germs and wipes out stains, yet is so safe and gentle you can gargle with it!

Your savings: at least \$30 a year!



Sweeten the air with cinnamon sticks!

Scented candles and air fresheners can be pricey—and some contain as many as 10 hazardous compounds, according to one recent study. Luckily, you can make your home smell clean and inviting with just a cinnamon stick, says Blazovsky. Boil a pan of water, add a cinnamon stick and let it simmer on the stove. "The scent will permeate through your home." For a slight citrus scent, toss in some orange or lemon rinds.

Your savings: at least \$50 a year!



Soften your clothes—and dry them faster with vinegar!

Replace fabric softener with 3/4 cup of white distilled vinegar (added to your washing machine during the final rinse cycle), and your clothes and linens will come out soft and clean, promises Button. "The vinegar works by removing residues left behind on the clothes, as well as relaxing fibers," she says. "Don't worry about any lingering vinegar scent. Once the clothes have dried, the smell will be long gone!" And since fabric softener products often leave a thin layer of lubricant that makes clothes take longer to dry, your clothes will dry faster using vinegar, too!

Note: Do not try on dry-clean-only fabrics.

Your savings: at least \$45 a year!



Make wood shine with olive oil and lemon juice!

Want to get your wood furniture clean? Instead of heading to your supermarket to buy polish, just walk into your kitchen! Squeeze fresh lemon juice and strain it. "Then mix two to three tablespoons of the lemon juice into a small bowl with a few drops of olive oil and rub it gently into the wood," says Blazovsky. "The lemon juice breaks up dirt, and then pulls it out of the wood, while the oil lubricates the wood so it doesn't dry out."

Your savings: at least \$35 a year!

Make your oven sparkle with baking soda!

No oven cleaner on hand? No problem! Just make a paste with baking soda and water, and it'll grab hold of food and grease particles and lift them up and away, says Kimberly Button, author of *The Everything Guide to a Healthy Home*. Let it sit for an hour on small spills, overnight for baked-on ones. Then wipe away the grime with a wet sponge. Bonus: Baking soda absorbs and neutralizes odors!

Your savings: at least \$25 a year!

Wipe away tarnish with toothpaste!

Don't want to spend money on something you won't use very often? Regular cream toothpaste (without whitening agents or fluoride) makes a great silver polisher, according to Button. The same friction agent that lifts plaque off your teeth is "abrasive enough to lift off tarnish without damaging the silver." Rub gently on your silver item, rinse and then dry and buff with a clean soft cloth. "Your jewelry, stainless steel and flatware will be tarnish-free, without any damaging chemicals!" she says.

Your savings: at least \$20 a year!

