

DIY Household Cleaners

Homemade Liquid Castile Soap

ashleyshomemadeadventures.wordpress.com

1. Grate 1 bar of Kirk's castile bar soap into large pot or bowl.
2. Add 10 cups hot water, stir until soap dissolves.
3. Store covered (use empty gallon-size water jugs) and shake gently before use.
4. This liquid soap seems to thicken or gel up when cold, so if stored in a warm area of your house and it should remain liquid.



I really love this stuff and you can't beat the price. Little changes like this can make a big difference in your budget and eliminating toxic chemicals from your life. It takes hardly any time at all to make, it is cheap, all natural and works great. When you use much castile soap, the price can add up. Kirk's castile bar soap works everywhere; including in the shower; it's super cheap compared to other soaps. It's all natural and made with coconut oil, but it smells like soap, not coconut. It can be found in the regular soap aisle at Wal-Mart. And for making liquid castile soap, when you grate it up, and add water, you end up with a nice liquid soap, but it is thin. You might think you've watered it down too much, until you use it. It is very sudsy and effective! You can use less water if you want it thicker but this recipe works just fine.

Homemade Shampoo

- 1 gallon of regular brewed tea (or water)
- 1/2 cup baking soda
- 1/4 cup castile soap (1/2 cup if using homemade recipe above)
- optional: 3 tsp xanthan gum (you can make this recipe w/o xanthan gum, as a spray shampoo)
- optional: essential oils (about 30 drops)

1. Brew the tea; you can put the tea bags right into cold water, then heat the water just to where it's steaming and you see little bubbles on the bottom, then take it off the heat and let steep for 5-10 mins.
2. Remove the tea bags and stir in baking soda. It will fizz and foam up for a minute. You can let mixture cool off some before adding in the rest of the ingredients if you would like. You will whisk in xanthan gum next, a little at a time. Then stir in castile soap and essential oil. If you forget to add the xanthan gum before the castile soap you end up with foam on top of the mixture while stirring in the xanthan gum. Not a big deal except it causes little clumps and its hard to see when it's all mixed in. It doesn't affect the end result.
3. After it cools completely stir in essential oils. Then pour some into an empty bottle for the shower and store the rest under the sink in a jug. Use just like regular shampoo, and enjoy your clean, pretty smelling, shiny hair. There are many variations for this - chamomile tea, green tea, lavender castile soap, lavender essential oil, etc.
4. To make and use without xanthum gum (used to make the shampoo thicken) make it w/o it and put it in a spray bottle (like one you would use for cleaning). Then, just wet hair and spray the liquid shampoo mixture on, and it works wonderfully! It helps use a lot less shampoo, and it suds very well and is easy to apply. You can do the same with a homemade ACV conditioner rinse.

Paula's Homemade Laundry Soap Powder

Borax (4 lb 12 oz box) Arm & Hammer Super Washing Soda (55 oz/ 3 lb 7 oz box)
Oxy clean (3 lb tub) 2 Bars Fels Naptha (5.5 oz bars)
Arm & Hammer Baking Soda (5 lb) Purex Crystals (2 bottles) or 20 drops essential oil

Instructions

Finely grate the Fels-Naptha. Mix all the ingredients together and store in container of your choice. Use only 1-2 Tablespoons of detergent per load.

Homemade Laundry Detergent

happymoneysaver.com

Creates the perfect balance so that laundry is clean, but without the annoying deposits frequently left on clothes from soap and other ingredients (also a common problem with commercial laundry detergents). With this recipe, not only is laundry exceptionally clean, but there's zero soap deposits left on clothes, or even on the washing machine.

Ingredients

- 1 Box of Super Washing Soda 3 lb. 7 oz.
or see naturesnurtureblog.com/how-to-make-washing-soda
 - 1 Box of Borax 4 lbs 12 oz. size
 - 1 Box of Pure Baking Soda 4 lb.
 - 3 bars of Fels-Naptha 5.5 oz. *or Ivory soap*
Dr Bronner Castille soap bar
Zote flakes (already shredded)
 - 3 lb container of Oxy-Clean (keep scoop for the laundry soap)
("Biz" is stronger... but works in an entirely different way than OxyClean does)
- *optional: Purex Crystals 28 oz.
for scent (OR just make your own)
for fabric softening*
- *optional: box of Clorox 2 or
generic equivalent*

Homemade Laundry Soap

This laundry soap recipe also works very well in cold water. You can make scentless, but if you add scent, use scent crystals or essential oils in dryer balls... (essential oils used directly in this recipe don't work). Using fabric scent crystals are supposed to act as fabric softeners. If you leave that out, you can use fabric softener or sheets instead, or in addition if you like your items extra soft. You can use bleach in your load with this recipe. Homemade laundry soap helps eliminate musty smells in machines and clothing.

Instructions

1. The first step is to grate your Fels-Naptha Bar. You can use a cheese grater to do this, but I used my food processor as it was a lot quicker. Using my food processor I first grated the bar like cheese, and then used the regular blade to grate down fine.
2. YIELD: Mix all up in large tub container. It will mix into an off-white heavy powder with yellow and purple crumbs throughout. The yield is 18 lbs. 1 lb of this is about 28 tablespoons.
3. USE: You only need to use 1-2 tablespoons per load (use the Oxy-clean scoop), and yes you can use it in your High Efficiency washing machines (that's what I have been using). Some people worry that just 1-2 tablespoons is not enough, but this stuff is concentrated and works really well!
4. COST: pennies per load, especially if you make your own fabric softener.

Homemade Laundry Soap

(from reader comment after above recipe)

Personally, I use a 1:1:1:1 parts Washing Soda, OxyClean, Borax, and Washing Soap so I can avoid measuring. Then I buy the Washing Soda, OxyClean, and Borax in 9lb containers (1 gallon each).

Finally, I make the Washing Soap myself (6 lb coconut oil, 2.1 lb water, 1.099 lb lye).

I end up with 36 lb of laundry detergent which lasts me several years. I typically make bar soap and laundry soap in huge batches so I only have to do it once every few years and because it is cheaper buying in bulk. Also, large quantities of powdered laundry detergent is easy to store.

“Super Laundry Sauce” Liquid Soap

(budget101.com)

1 5.05 oz Bar of Fels Naptha Soap

3 c. water

1 cup 20 Mule Team Borax Powder

1 cup Arm & Hammer Washing Soda (not Baking Soda)

2 (1 qt) Mason Jars

Blender that fits mason jar lid size bottle neck.

Optional:

30 drops Essential Oil of your choice such as Lavender, Jasmine, etc

To use, add 1 Tablespoon ONLY to a load of laundry in any type of machine, conventional, Front Loader, High Capacity & High Efficiency (HE), etc. **Do not** add the detergent to the “detergent compartment” (It WILL Not Work and it WILL get stuck in the compartment, I can assure you!) but instead directly with the dirty clothes. Do NOT Use Baking Soda or Oxyclean in this recipe hoping it will be an added “Boost”. Your jars will *likely explode* within 7-10 days in storage (don't ask how we know).

[Super Laundry Sauce](http://budget101.com/do-it-yourself/4075-super-laundry-sauce-for-dummies) (No Fail/No Cook Version) This is the Recipe we Recommend the MOST. budget101.com/do-it-yourself/4075-super-laundry-sauce-for-dummies.

[Super Laundry Sauce Original Recipe](http://budget101.com/do-it-yourself/3993-original-moms-super-laundry-sauce-laundry-soap-recipe) the more difficult, time-consuming method

budget101.com/do-it-yourself/3993-original-moms-super-laundry-sauce-laundry-soap-recipe

<https://www.budget101.com/do-it-yourself/4214-super-laundry-sauce-frequently-asked-questions>

Is there a way to make this that does not involve the use of a blender?

Yes, you can prepare as directed until you reach the step where it must go in a blender and use a hand mixer to whip it instead. You will get a different consistency and texture, but it will work fine. Others have used immersion blender sticks, magic bullets, and hand mixers. As you can see from our photos we use a cheapie Oster blender and mason jars.

Homemade Liquid Fabric Softener

Which recipe works best? There are 2 basic recipes; and of the 2, this is the very best homemade fabric softener recipe ever; cheaper, softer, nicer smelling, and easy to make with only 3 ingredients, you'll have a batch made in just 5 minutes.

Ingredients

5 cups hot distilled water

3 cups white distilled vinegar {leaves no vinegar smell at all, don't worry!}

1 cup hair conditioner

Instructions

In a medium bowl add very hot water and the conditioner. (Water doesn't need to be boiling, but hot enough that it helps smooth any clumps from the conditioner).

Whisk together until smooth and clump free.

Add in vinegar and whisk to combine.

Pour into containers of choice such as wide mouth quart mason jars. Store in air tight container at room temperature for up to 5 months.

How Much Homemade Fabric Softener Should I Use?

Same as store bought. Use 1/2 - 1 cup (depending on load size) per load. I pour mine right into the regular fabric softener location in the washing machine and it works perfectly!

OR: Use a Sponge to Make a Dryer Sheet: yep... this will make your fabric softener recipe go even further! All you need to do is take a clean sponge, dip it into the DIY fabric softener, wring it out very well and toss it into the dryer with your clothes. Use 1:1 mix of the fabric softener and water. Squeeze out excess so it's not dripping. I also use tennis balls with a few drops of essential oils which the same as the expensive wool balls.

What Kind of Conditioner Should I Use?

I used a low-priced conditioner from the dollar store. The higher quality conditioners won't make any noticeable difference, so don't waste your money! Some of my favorite conditioners in terms of fragrance are Clairol Herbal Essence, Dove, Wella Balsam, and Breck.

For a homemade fabric freshener I clean out an empty spray bottle cleaner such as Windex, Clorox, etc..... I buy a big bottle of Downy scent booster beads (costs \$7 at Walmart). I put the desired amount of beads (try 1/4 cup) into the spray bottle with hot water and then I add two caps full of clear rubbing alcohol (\$1 ea). I shake and shake, then let it sit over night and let the beads dissolve. Then spray away on your sofa, curtains, sheets, ect.... and here's the best part, with this one bottle of beads you can make around 15 bottles of awesome smelling fabric freshener for 53¢ each, compared to 15 bottles of Febreze at \$5 per bottle!

Wool Dryer Balls

Dryer sheets are infused with chemicals and artificial fragrances, they are not eco-friendly, and they are expensive. Get rid of dryer sheets forever and replace them with homemade dryer balls! Dryer Balls do everything dryer sheets do (plus more!), are easy to make, and are easy on the wallet. You only have to make these balls once and they will last a lifetime. Plus, they help to circulate the warm air in your dryer, which means dryer clothes in less time (hello money savings). Plus, they fluff your clothes too!

Cost Breakdown:

100% Wool Yarn: \$4.19

Old Pantyhose: \$.00 allows the wool balls to keep their shape and to not unravel during the washing and drying cycle

3 drops Purify 22¢: Purify is an exclusive combination of essential oils that purify and eradicate odors in a natural, safe way. This uplifting blend combines citrus and pine essential oils that leave an airy, fresh scent on surfaces and in the air.

Note: 100% Wool Yarn is normally \$6.99 per spool at your local craft store. However, they always have 40% off coupons so make sure to use those when buying this. One spool will make approximately 1.5 balls (depending on what size you make them), so you will need to buy 4 spools to get my recommended 6 softball-size dryer balls.

Total: \$4.41 for 1 1/2 balls

\$17.64 for 6 balls

100% Wool Yarn: The most important part of making these dryer balls is to ONLY use 100% wool yarn (or other 100% animal fiber yarn). Wool yarn contains natural fibers that, when put into hot water, fuse together. That is what allows for the ball to felt into one solid object as opposed to a bunch of loose strings.

Directions:

1. Wrap the yarn around around your middle and index finger 8-10 times before removing. Continue wrapping the yarn tightly around each other until you have a ball roughly the size of a softball.

2. Cut the yarn and tuck the loose end into the ball.
3. Cut a leg off of your pantyhose and place the ball at the bottom (toe area) of the pantyhose. Tie a knot securing it in place.
4. Repeat until you are out of yarn.
5. To felt the dryer balls, they must be washed and dried on the hottest setting. If your water does not get hot enough, boil some water and place the balls in a bowl and fill with boiling water. Let them soak for 5-10 minutes before putting them in the dryer. Also, it may take a few cycles in the dryer before the balls are completely dry. Be patient! You don't want to rush the process and have the dryer balls not fully felt together.
6. Once the balls are thoroughly felted and dried, remove from panty hose. They may stick a little but should easily pull away. Now you can use them!
7. I just keep my dryer balls in the dryer at all times. Before I start a load of laundry in the dryer, I just put 3-5 drops of Purify (or any other oil that I am in the mood for) directly on the dryer balls and turn the dryer on as usual. Just a heads up that they can get noisy in the dryer from banging around, but it is totally worth it.

NOTES:

Using more balls makes for faster drying time.

Fire Hazard? Do your research. There are a lot of essential oils with a significantly higher flash point than a drier can heat up to. Do a quick search before adding, but it can be done safely with EO. Cedar for instance is 200° while a drier goes to 125°.

Static issues? Dryer balls reduce static cling. The only time I have static cling (and very little of it) is when I over dry my clothes such as leaving them in the dryer too long. If everything is coming out of the dryer full of static, try adding a metal safety pin to each ball. Or, crumple up a ball of aluminum foil and throw it in the dryer with your wet clothes it will eliminate static cling.

Reader comment: Love dryer balls. My grandmother (and I'm 60+) would make them from leftover wool yarn from sweaters, hats, mittens she made for my 5 siblings and myself. I remember when she got her first dryer.... no such thing as dryer sheets! I still have 3 of her old dryer balls! She would felt the ball and then embroider a design on it and run through the felting process again. Noisy? Yep, you'll get used to it and it's better than a buzzer on your dryer.... when it's quiet; clothes are done! You will find one occasionally in a sleeve or the fitted corner of a sheet. Still worth it. I haven't bought softener in, at least, 40 years. Did try dryer sheets (for curiosity) and found they leave a residue on the lint filter of the dryer. That residue blocked the air flow.... bad on all levels. I use 3 balls light/delicate loads and up to 6-7 balls for a heavy load.

I LOVE my dryer balls! I no longer use liquid fabric softener or dryer sheets because of the chemicals. A ¼ – ½ cup of white vinegar in the soak cycle and a ¼ cup in the fabric softener dispenser leaves our laundry sweet and fresh-smelling, even if I forget a load in the washer overnight.

Homemade Fabric Softener Crystals Recipe

Make your own Homemade Fabric Softener Crystals recipe just like the Purex Crystals. You only need two simple ingredients - Epsom salts and essential oils.

Pour Epsom salts into a bowl. A 2 lb. box (a little over 4 cups) of Epsom salts only costs \$0.88 at Walmart! Then add about 40 drops of your favorite essential oils. Mix well.

My favorite scent for my homemade fabric softener crystals is a combination of 20 drops of Lavendar and 20 drops of Lime. The combination is heavenly. But you can really just add whatever scent you love the most. In fact you could probably have it be non-scented if you wanted to as well which would save even more money. The salts alone would soften your clothes. Store them in an air-tight container or just pour the whole 4 cups into your homemade laundry recipe. If you use store bought laundry detergent you can just add a small scoop (1-2 tablespoons) of these crystals to your wash to soften your clothes.

Homemade Dishwasher Detergent

Ingredients:

1 cup Washing Soda {cleaner}
1 cup Baking Soda {cuts out grease}
3 packages unsweetened lemonade drink mix {added cleaning power, antibacterial and smells awesome}
1 cup of Kosher Salt {reduces hard water build up - might be able to reduce this amount if you have soft water}
1 cup Water

Instructions:

1. Mix all dry ingredients together.
2. If you are using this as a dry powder: Omit the water. Then pour all dry ingredients into an airtight container. Consider adding in a bag of uncooked rice in a clean cloth to help keep the dry mixture from clumping. Add one tablespoon of dry powder mix to your dishwasher dispenser. Also use vinegar or jet-dry in your rinse dispenser too.
3. If you are making tabs: Add water, wait for fizzing to stop (about 1-2 minutes). Then add your mixture to ice cube trays, pressing with your fingers or back of a spoon. Let dry in a warm and sunny spot for 24 hours or till completely dry. Remove and add to an airtight container. Add one tab to the dishwasher dispenser. Also use vinegar or jet-dry in your rinse dispenser too.

Homemade Countertop Cleansing Spray

Ingredients:

1.5 cups distilled water
1/2 cup white distilled vinegar
15 drops Lemon essential oil
15 drops Eucalyptus essential oil

Directions:

1. In a 16-ounce glass spray bottle, add all ingredients. Shake before each use. Use as you normally would use a countertop spray.

[MYO Swiffer-Type Cloths](https://www.budget101.com/do-it-yourself/1991-myo-swiffer-type-cloths/)

<https://www.budget101.com/do-it-yourself/1991-myo-swiffer-type-cloths/>

Magic Outdoor Window Cleaner

This is the best way EVER to clean your windows... No drying is needed, and you won't have any spots or streaks on your window! You can clean 2 big sliding glass doors and 8 large windows in minutes!!!

Ingredients:

1/2 gallon warm water
1 Tablespoon of liquid "Jet Dry" or "Finish Rinse Aid"
2-3 Tablespoons of liquid laundry detergent or dish washing soap

Directions:

Mix all of the ingredients above.

Spray your windows down with your hose to get them wet then wipe or brush on the solution onto your windows, then immediately hose it off. That's all there is to it and you're done. The remaining water just sheets off and you don't need to dry it off!

Homemade Air Freshener

ashleyshomemadeadventures.wordpress.com/2012/01/16/homemade-air-freshener

This was my first time making this, and I am shocked at how simple it is. These would make an excellent gift and there are so many options as far as what fragrance you want. You get to pick how strong the scent is, and there are no nasty chemicals. You can leave it clear, or choose a color to match your decor. If you leave it clear, or don't go overboard on food coloring (like I did) you can also add in things like decorative rocks, shells, etc. These are supposed to dry out over the course of a month or so, just like the ones from the store. You can use either fragrance oils, pure essential oils, or a combination of both. You can use small glasses/jars and can make each one a different color or scent if you would like. I opted for one, bigger air freshener by using an old Claussen pickle jar and used lavender for the scent. I really love finding recipes like this that have so many possibilities. So lets get started, you will need:

- several small jars/glasses (or one large one)
- 4 packets unflavored gelatin
- 2 cups cold water
- 1 tablespoon salt
- fragrance oil and/or essential oil
- food coloring

① Boil 1 cup of water, whisk in gelatin until dissolved.

(It is very important to whisk constantly and pour in a little at a time to avoid lumps.

It helps to have your packets of gelatin opened and ready to go.)

② Add salt, whisk until dissolved.

③ Add in other cup of cold water.

Add just a couple of drops of food coloring (or not if you want it clear) to your container(s). Then your oil(s). Start with just a few drops and add more if you want to. For the fragrance, try about 10 drops of essential oil. More if you do it all in one jar instead of 3 smaller jars. Then pour your gelatin mixture into the container(s) and stir with something disposable like a popsicle stick. Then just let it sit overnight. It will clear and gel up and it smells fantastic.

Carpet Cleaner Solution

happymoneysaver.com

This homemade carpet cleaner solution cleans carpet stains left from food, accidents, pets, and life's little messes. And with a cost of \$1 per gallon to make, this secret formula is gonna save you a TON of money!

Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp liquid Tide laundry detergent
- 1/4 cup LA's Totally Awesome cleaner
- 1 scoop Oxiclean (3 tbsp)
- 1 teaspoon Downy fabric softener optional
- 1 gallon hot water

Instructions

MAKING THE SOLUTION

{use very very hot water (like you were making coffee) to mix the OXYCLEAN and dissolve it before adding the other ingredients. So much easier.}

In a small bowl, combine the liquid Tide, Awesome cleaner, Oxiclean and Downy if using. Stir together with spoon until well combined.

Add mixture to a gallon of hot water, stirring gently so you don't make bubbles. Stir slowly and gently until all Oxiclean particles are completely dissolved.

Use immediately in your carpet cleaner machines or pour into a gallon-sized container with a lid. Label outside of container: Concentrated Carpet Cleaner.

HOW TO USE SOLUTION

Before you begin carpet shampooing, make sure that your carpet has been thoroughly vacuumed.

It's a good idea to test this homemade carpet cleaner on a less visible area of flooring to make sure it's safe for your carpet and wait at least 24 hours for the test spot to dry to see the results.

Read the directions that came with your carpet cleaning machine for how much cleaner to add as some reservoirs are smaller than others. For typical carpet shampoo machines, fill your reservoir with hot water. Then pour 1/4 cup of this concentrated solution into your water filled reservoir.

(**The ratio I use is about a gallon of hot water to 1/4 cup of this concentrated cleaning solution.)

Then you can run the machine over your entire carpet, making sure to show special attention to stains or spots. Wait least 24 hours for the carpet to dry and you're done!

Notes

STORING LEFTOVER SOLUTION Add leftover concentrated solution it to an empty gallon container, label it and store it in a cool and dry place. It will stay good for 6 months or possibly even longer.

PRE-TREATING STAINS Make a stain pre-treat mixture by using a 50-50 mix of the concentrated solution and water. You can add it to a spray bottle or just use your fingers to dab a bit of it on the stain. Let it sit for 5 minutes then shampoo over it. Repeat if necessary.

FINAL CARPET RINSE NEEDED? This is a personal preference as most die-hard carpet cleaners out there say that if any cleaning product is left on our carpets, it will attract more dirt and you'll end up with dirty carpets. So if you'd like to take that extra step, feel free. I personally like the smell and softness the downy fabric softener leaves behind and my carpets haven't had stains come back in the same places. The solution is so diluted down that I'm not worried about it. So I don't do the extra rinse personally myself. But it's totally up to you to do what you feel is best here.

Upholstery & Carpet Stain Remover

couponingtodisney.com

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp dish soap (I used the regular Dawn)
- 1 tbsp white vinegar
- 2 cups hot water
- Baking soda

Instructions

1. Sprinkle baking soda on the stain and wait 10 minutes. Then vacuum it up.
2. Mix the dish soap, vinegar, and water together.
3. With a clean cloth, start dabbing the stain remover on the stain. Keep blotting until it's completely gone.

Homemade Laundry Soap Ingredient Research

Arm & Hammer Super Washing Soda

or sodium carbonate, helps get out ground-in dirt and stains, cuts through grease, and eliminates odors. It also helps soften hard water. It's recommended for laundry use and homemade laundry detergent.

It gets an A on the Environmental Working Group (EWG for short) guide. This means it has few/no known or suspected hazards to health or the environment and there's a good ingredient disclosure.



Arm & Hammer Baking Soda

or sodium bicarbonate, will give you “whiter” whites and boost colors when used in laundry. It's a natural cleaner, deodorizer, and water softener. Baking soda is also a mild antiseptic which discourages bacteria growth.

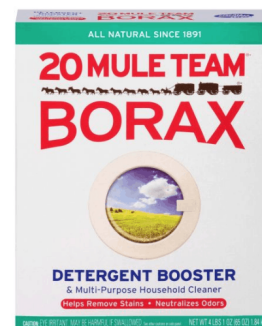
It also gets an A on the EWG guide making it a great natural alternative to harsh chemicals found in store bought laundry detergents.



Borax

Borax is used in homemade laundry detergents to soften water and remove stains. It helps keep soap evenly distributed in the wash so it's more likely to rinse out. This helps keep soap residue from staying on clothes. Borax inhibits mold, fungi and bacteria helping to disinfect and neutralize odors in laundry.

If you check out the ingredients on a box of 20 Mule Team BORAX you'll see sodium tetraborate (a natural mineral). Borax is a salt of boric acid and a boron compound.



As for safety, it depends on what you read, who you trust.

The EWG gives Borax a big fat F because it may contain ingredients with potential for developmental/endocrine/reproductive effects; respiratory effects; skin irritation/allergies/damage. After doing the research on Borax myself I can see why the EWG gives it an F.

However, it also gives me a bit of pause when it comes to the EWG's grading system. Based on the F, I wouldn't use Borax but based on my own research I feel comfortable with it. It just goes to show you should always do your own research.

Bar Soap

Some DIY laundry detergent recipes call for bar soap. Fels-Naptha, Castille Soap, Zote, and even Ivory soap are popular bars for laundry. The problem with using bar soap in homemade laundry detergents is **BUILDUP!**

Basically DIY Laundry Detergent *may sayers* claim that soap is not made for washing clothes unless we're going old school with a washing board. A washing machine doesn't agitate enough to rinse away the soap, trapping it on clothes and the surface of your washing machine. The soap continues to build up, trapping dirt and bacteria. This in time, can ruin both your clothes and the washing machine. But, buildup can also be caused by hard water so it's difficult to say whether or not soap is the buildup problem, and most homemade detergents have water softeners in them.

Personally I use soap in my homemade laundry detergent and here's why. I've used the homemade stuff for years and haven't seen a problem with build up. Others in the home use both an eco friendly laundry detergent and some regular old store bought stuff, and I just don't like it as much as the homemade stuff. That's good enough for me. I also don't spend much on clothes so I'm not super worried about clothing looking worn after 3 years. Towels need a deep cleaning occasionally no matter what detergent is used so I'm not worried about them either. Currently, I need to save money and I want keep chemicals out of the house as much as possible, so I'm sticking with the homemade stuff.

Soap Bar Brands

There are 4 main bar soaps used in homemade laundry detergent.

Fels-Naptha is a laundry soap produced by Purex. It's been around for over a 100 years. It's used to get tough stains out of clothes by wetting the stained area and rubbing directly with the soap. You then wash as normal. Putting this in homemade laundry detergent seems like a logical choice. It gets a C (moderate concern) on EWGs guide to healthy cleaning for poor disclosure; May contain ingredients with potential for cancer; respiratory effects; biodegradation. In side by side tests, the Fels Naptha WAY out-performs zote. It dissolves better in any temperature water, cleans way better on grease, nasty dirt, smells & stains. The smell does not linger in the clean clothing past a day.



Zote Pink or White Soap Bar is also found in the laundry department. It can also be used to pre-treat stains, hand wash laundry and per Walmart's description make homemade laundry detergent. It gets a C on EWGs guide because it may contain ingredients with potential for respiratory effects; biodegradation; nervous system effects. It is much better used only for spot cleaning or hand washing in very hot water.



Castile Soap is a vegetable based soap. It is biodegradable and nontoxic so it may be a healthier option to the 2 soaps above. Not all castile soap is created equally though so make sure to read the ingredients when deciding which one to get. Dr. Bronner's and Kirk's are both great options and both are labeled as acceptable for laundry use. Most Dr. Bronner's castile soaps score a 1 on EWG's skin deep database. Kirk's Natural Original Coco Castile Bar Soap, Fragrance Free also gets a 1 making them a very low hazard.



Ivory Bar Soap is made up of animal fat as opposed to castile's vegetable fat. The first ingredient on this list is sodium tallowate, which comes from animal fat. I'm not sure who decided to start using it in homemade laundry detergent. It's not listed on their site as suitable for laundry. It scores a 3 (lower on the moderate hazard scale) on the EWG list for occupational hazards, skin, eye, & lung irritation and organ toxicity.



OxiClean

OxiClean is an oxygen based stain fighter that's chlorine free and color safe. It helps remove odors as well. Some people mix it into their DIY laundry detergent and others leave it out and only use on extra soiled laundry by adding it into the wash after the homemade stuff. The original OxiClean Versatile Stain Remover (yellow lid) gets an F on the EWG guide because it may contain ingredients with potential for Government enforceable restrictions, respiratory effects, and it's carcinogenic. There are two other options though if you want that OxiClean power. First there's OxiClean Versatile Stain Remover, Free (green lid, I found 2 looks). It receives a B on the EWG guide for some concern for cancer; respiratory effects; biodegradation. The other and perhaps best choice is OxiClean Baby Stain Fighter (pink lid). This one receives an A on the EWG guide with some concern for respiratory effects and damage to vision.

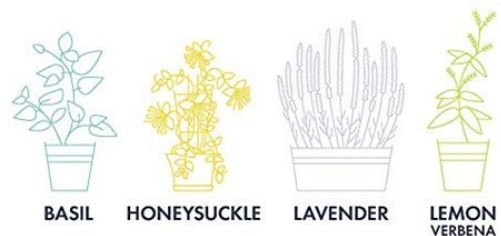


Scent Boosters

Scent boosters added to the wash don't take away odors. They basically cover them up with perfume. Checking out 3 popular scent boosters often found in homemade laundry detergents, Downy's Unstoppables, Arm & Hammer Clean Scentsations In-Wash Scent Booster, and Gains Fireworks Scent Booster, you will find, since these are full of perfumes and dyes they aren't going to do well on the EWG's guide. Unstopples and Clean Scentsations both receive an F and Gains Fireworks gets a D. If you really want some scent boosters in your DIY laundry detergent then you can try Mrs. Meyer's Clean Day Laundry Scent Booster. It receives a B over some concern for skin irritation/ allergies/ damage; respiratory effects; cancer.



Available In These Scents



BASIL HONEYSUCKLE LAVENDER LEMON VERBENA