

Make a

Spring-cleaning kit

You need

- scissors
- old, worn cotton clothes or towels
- white vinegar
- bowl
- salt
- a box or bag

Spring is traditionally when we tidy and clean our homes, ready for summer – so make a special cleaning kit that’s kind to the environment. Show your family and friends how it’s done, or invite them to help. Cleaning’s always more fun with a group!

- 1** Cut up your old clothes or towels, to recycle them into cleaning rags.
- 2** Fold your hand-made rags and put them into your box, together with the bowl, the bottle of vinegar, and a container of salt.
- 3** Write CLEANING KIT on the box.
- 4** When you’re ready to clean, take the bowl, and, in it, mix equal parts of salt and vinegar. (The salt dissolves if you mix it up too far ahead of time.)
- 5** Use this powerful cleaning mix, along with your rags, to clean sinks, showers, benches, ovens, and very dirty pots and pans.
- 6** To clean windows and mirrors, use just vinegar, without salt.
- 7** Wash and dry the bowl and the rags, and put them back in your kit box, ready for next time
- 8** After you’ve used your cleaning mix on a surface, clean it off with a dry rag, leaving everything sparkling.



Why does it work?

Vinegar is an acid and dissolves grease. Salt is rough, and adds scour power. Both vinegar and salt also kill some germs.

Caring for nature

Most cleaning products that you buy are full of lots of ingredients, and made in complicated ways.

Often, the more complicated a product is, the harder on the environment it is. It can mean that more petrol is used to transport all the ingredients around, more energy is used to make the product, and more toxic waste is produced by the factory.

A good general rule is to use the most simple products you can find, made, if possible, in your own country. And often, the more you can make yourself – the better.