

Homemade Laundry Soap

(Gathered from misc web sites)

You will need 3 basic ingredients; a soap of some sort, washing soda and borax. The first recipes are for liquid laundry soap. There is a dry (powder/flaked) recipe at the end.

The Soap: The most typical type of soap to use is Fels Naptha. It is an old-fashioned type of soap usually found in the laundry aisle. Other common options for soap are Ivory and Zote. Just about any bar soap will work. If you use your own homemade soap you will probably need to use the whole bar. Experiment and see what works out best to suit your own personal situation.

Washing Soda: This is not to be confused with baking soda. They are not the same thing. Washing soda is sodium carbonate or soda ash (baking soda is sodium bicarbonate). It is a white powder. Its purpose is to help remove dirt and odors. The brand used most often is Arm & Hammer Washing Soda. It can be found in most grocery store laundry aisles.

Borax: Borax is a naturally occurring mineral: Sodium Borate. It is a white powder. It's purpose is as a laundry whitener and deodorizer. The brand to look for is 20 Mule Team. It comes in a 76 oz. box. You should be able to locate this in the laundry detergent aisle. Again as with the washing soda, if you cannot find it ask your store manager or look online.

Recipe A (liquid):

- 1/3 bar soap as listed above
- 1/2 cup washing soda as listed above
- 1/2 cup borax powder as listed above

Instructions

Grate the soap and put it in a sauce pan. Add 6 cups water and heat it until the soap melts. Add the washing soda and the borax and stir until it is dissolved. Remove from heat.

Pour 4 cups hot water into a 2+ gallon bucket. Add your soap mixture and stir. Now add 1 gallon plus 6 cups of water and keep stirring and then stir some more. Let the soap sit for about 24 hours and it will gel.

Optional: If you want your soap to have some sort of scent you can scent this with 1/2 to 1 oz. of essential oil or fragrance oil of your choice.

You use 1/2 cup per load.

A few things to note about the soap:

The finished soap will not be a solid gel. It will be more of a watery gel that has been accurately described as an "egg noodle soup" look.

The soap is a low sudsing soap. So if you don't see suds, that is ok. Suds are not what does the cleaning, it is the ingredients in the soap.

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Recipe B (liquid):

- 1 bar of soap (see above)

- 1 box of washing soda (see above)
- 1 box of borax (see above)
- 5 gallon bucket with a lid (or a bucket that will hold more than 15 liters – ask around – these aren't too tough to acquire)
- Three gallons of tap water
- A big spoon to stir the mixture with
- A measuring cup
- A knife

Step One: Put about four cups of water into a pan on your stove and turn the heat up on high until it's almost boiling. While you're waiting, whip out a knife and start shaving strips off of the bar of soap into the water, whittling it down. Keep the heat below a boil and keep shaving the soap. Eventually, you'll shave up the whole bar, then stir the hot water until the soap is dissolved and you have some highly soapy water.

Step Two: Put three gallons of hot water (11 liters or so) into the five gallon bucket – the easiest way is to fill up three gallon milk jugs worth of it. Then mix in the hot soapy water from step one, stir it for a while, then add a cup of the washing soda. Keep stirring it for another minute or two, then add a half cup of borax. Stir for another couple of minutes, then let the stuff sit overnight to cool.

And you're done. When you wake up in the morning, you'll have a bucket of gelatinous slime that's a paler shade of the soap that you used.

One measuring cup full of this slime will be roughly what you need to do a load of laundry.

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Recipe C (liquid):

- 1 measuring cup of borax
- 1 measuring cup of washing soda
- 1 bar of soap
- Optional - 1 small bottle of fabric softener

Shred bar of soap with cheese shredder put into sauce pan covering the soap with just enough hot tap water to stir. Cook on top of stove on medium continue stirring soap until soap melts.

Fill 5 gallon bucket with hot tap water add all ingredients stir for several minutes, put the lid on the bucket and let stand over night. In the morning take off lid stir again and it's ready to use. You can reuse old detergent bottles and a cap or two is all you'll need per load. If it gets watery on the shelf a good shaking should remix it just fine.

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Homemade fabric sheets:

To make your own fabric sheets just pour a small bottle of fabric softener (your choice) in bucket and 1 1/2 bottles of water add 2-4 sponges. Wring out the sponges put 2 sponges in dryer and there you have it - reusable fabric sheets.