

## Natural cleaners for toilets

<http://www.diynatural.com/homemade-toilet-cleaner/>

There are several natural ingredients you can use to formulate your own toilet bowl cleaners. Making your own allows you the freedom to use whichever ingredients you feel are safest for your family, are readily available, and will perform the best.

**White vinegar:** You're probably bored of hearing all the hype on green-living websites about how wonderful vinegar is for natural cleaning. But I can't stop singing its praises. Vinegar is a mild acid. It disinfects, eliminates odors, and is *extremely* safe.

**Borax:** Contrary to inaccurate information on some websites, borax is NOT the same thing as boric acid (which is toxic). It is actually *sodium tetraborate*, and is only as toxic as regular table salt or baking soda, in very LARGE amounts. Borax is a great multi-purpose cleaner that whitens, deodorizes, and removes stains.

**Lemon juice or citric acid:** Citric acid, also found in lemon juice, binds to minerals in the toilet bowl making them easier to eliminate. It may help diminish tough toilet stains left by hard water.

**Essential oils:** Pure essential oils are some of the best secret weapons to use in DIY cleaners. Many of these plant-based oils boast antibacterial, antiviral, and even antifungal properties. Tea tree oil has been studied more than any other essential oil, and has been found to kill most forms of bacteria when added to cleaners at a 0.5% – 1.0% concentration. Other essential oils that possess antibacterial properties, and are beneficial in bathroom cleaners are lavender, citrus oils, peppermint, rosemary, and eucalyptus, among others.

**Baking soda:** Baking soda is wonderful for scouring and deodorizing a toilet bowl. It doesn't possess any germ-fighting benefits, but it will help keep your bowl free of debris, stains, and those ugly rings.

### Homemade Toilet Cleaner Formulas

Take your pick from these natural toilet bowl cleaners that we use and love.

#### Tea Tree Toilet Bowl Scrub

This deodorizing formula utilizes the antibacterial properties of tea tree oil to kill germs in your toilet bowl and on toilet surfaces.

- ½ cup baking soda
- 1 cup distilled white vinegar
- ½ teaspoon tea tree essential oil

Combine vinegar and essential oil in a small spray bottle. Spray vinegar mixture inside bowl, and also on toilet seat, lid, and handle. Allow cleaner to sit for several minutes. Sprinkle baking soda inside toilet bowl and scrub inside of bowl with a toilet brush. Use a clean dry cloth to wipe vinegar solution off seat, lid, and handle.

#### Heavy Duty Toilet Formula

This toilet bowl formula can take care of nasty rings in your commode, or any other tough toilet cleaning. It leaves a sparkling bowl and eliminates stale toilet odors.

- ¾ cup borax
- 1 cup white vinegar
- 10 drops lavender essential oil
- 5 drops lemon essential oil

Combine all ingredients in a bowl or squirt bottle. Swish water around inside of toilet bowl with toilet brush, or simply flush to wet the inside of the bowl. Pour the entire mixture into the toilet bowl, and allow

to sit for several hours or overnight. Make sure family members do not use the toilet during this time. Scrub the bowl and flush toilet to rinse.

**Lazy Day Toilet Scrub**

For no fuss toilet cleaning, keep a spray bottle of vinegar and a shaker-top bottle of baking soda in your bathroom. When toilets need cleaning, spritz thoroughly with vinegar and allow to sit for several minutes. Sprinkle baking soda inside the bowl, scrub the inside of the bowl, and flush toilet. To clean the outside surfaces just spray with vinegar, let stand a few minutes, and wipe clean.

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