


Dry cleaner powder


 Alice (Lilou) M-D



https://wiki.lowtechlab.org/wiki/Nettoyant_%C3%A0_sec/en

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 Difficulty Very easy

 Duration 1 minute(s)

 Cost 3 EUR (€)

Description

Baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) is a basic ingredient use for cleaning, hygiene and cooking. It's a must have that can even be used for your health (stomach burns for example). Here we will present its uses in cleaning.

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Introduction

It can be hard to clean some surfaces, especially fabric, sofas, car seats... That can't be disassembled or that needs only dry cleaning. Rather than using industrial products that can be expensive, polluting and are filled with many problematic ingredients for your health, here is a simple and multi-purpose alternative : baking soda

Sodium bicarbonate : acts as a **cleaner**, **scourer** and **deodoriser**. It dissolves the fats and proteins responsible for stains and reinforces the action of homemade detergents. It prevents the proliferation of bacteria and softens hard water. Made from limestone and salt, bicarbonate is naturally present in the body and is harmless to health. It gives off no fumes or gas and does not evaporate. Price ~3-4 euros/kg

 Be careful to use the correct type of bicarbonate for each use: for cosmetic use, use only food/cosmetic bicarbonate and for food use, use **ONLY** food grade bicarbonate

Materials

Baking soda (sodium bicarbonate)

Tools

- toothbrush / brush
- vacuum cleaner

Step 1 - Dry cleaner powder


Sprinkle some baking soda on the object you wish to clean. Let a few minutes to activate and brush in circle to clean more deeply. Brush again and / or use a vacuum cleaner to eliminate the powder and dirt.


The previous method also works great to eliminate bad smells (especially animal's urine smells on fabric). If the smell is persistent, you can dilute a bit of baking soda in water and spray the object so that the baking soda can work more deeply in the fibers without soaking in. You can also use a spray made with 1/3 of white vinegar and 2/3 water. Please **DO NOT** mix both preparation, otherwise you could damage the object (heat reaction).

To eliminate smell from a room on long term, you can put a small bowl of baking soda that you will stir from time to time to reactivate its deodorant power. You know it's time to change your baking soda batch when it doesn't bubble when you put a small drop of vinegar on it

Notes and references

Contrary to what is commonly found on the internet and even in some recipe books, there is no point in mixing vinegar and bicarbonate in the same product unless you want to use it as a powerful scrubber at the time of the reaction. Once the gas-producing reaction is over, the cleaning power of the liquid is equivalent to water!

 If you want to mix baking soda and vinegar or any other type of base and acid (ex : lye, soda, percarbonate with citric acid, lemon or other acid liquids), be careful to do it in a well ventilated room and **NEVER** close the bottle / jug because otherwise it will explode at your face! And the explosion can be impressive, even if you put a small quantity of liquid into a large volume container.

 To replace industrial disinfectant such as bleach you can use pure white vinegar (on surfaces that are not damaged by acid liquids).