FREE CARD · FROM THE COMPLETE HOME HANDBOOK

The Under-the-Sink Card

Four cheap pantry basics do most of the work in the house. What each one is for, how to use it, and where it never goes. Print it and tape it inside the cabinet door.

1

White vinegar the shine

Use it on glass, mirrors, tile, sinks, faucets and hard-water spots.

Mix: 1 cup white vinegar, 1 cup water, in a spray bottle. Label it so no one drinks it.

Never on marble, granite or other stone, hardwood floors, waxed surfaces or cast iron.

2

Baking soda the gentle scrub

Use it on sinks, tubs, tile grout, oven interiors and pots with baked-on food.

Mix: 3 parts baking soda, 1 part water. Spread it on, wait 10 minutes, then scrub.

Don't bother mixing it with vinegar for "extra power". The fizz adds no cleaning power.

3

Dish soap the degreaser

Use it on grease and grime: the stovetop, the range hood filter, the bathroom film.

Mix: 1 teaspoon in 1 cup warm water, 2 teaspoons for a greasy stovetop. Never spray a hot stove.

Never on glass or ceramic cooktops, marble, granite or other stone, wood floors or furniture.

4

Hydrogen peroxide the stain lifter

Use it on counters after raw meat, plastic cutting boards, and blood, sweat, wine and grass stains.

How: put it on and let it air-dry. It breaks down into water and oxygen, so there is nothing to rinse off.

Test first on dark or bright fabric. It can bleach the color out.

PRINT IT. TAPE IT INSIDE THE CABINET DOOR.

What never to mix

NOT EVEN A LITTLE, NOT EVEN WITH THE WINDOW OPEN

- **Vinegar or any acid + bleach** makes toxic chlorine gas. It burns your lungs and throat and can kill in a closed space.
- **Ammonia + bleach** also makes toxic gas.
- **Hydrogen peroxide + bleach** can create hazardous chlorine compounds.
- **Hydrogen peroxide + vinegar in one bottle** makes peracetic acid, which can burn your skin and lungs. One or the other, not both at once.

Mixed them by accident? Leave the room right away and open windows on your way out if you can. Don't breathe the fumes. Wait at least 30 minutes before going back in, and air the room well. Trouble breathing: call 911. Poison Help: 1-800-222-1222.

What is safe to combine

THESE WORK TOGETHER

- **Vinegar + dish soap:** safe, and they work well together on grease.
- **Peroxide + baking soda:** a safe paste for grout and sinks.
- **Vinegar + baking soda:** safe, but they cancel each other out. Use one, let it sit, then scrub.

When in doubt, use one cleaner at a time. Rinse in between, and keep a label on every bottle you fill yourself.

This card is the four basics. The book is 174 fixes.

The Complete Home Handbook: 635 pages, three books in one, room by room, with a whole part for the tired days. See hannah-homestead.com

General information, not professional advice. Test a hidden spot first on anything you are not sure about, and follow the labels on your products.