

# SNEAKY HOUSEHOLD SECRETS



By The  
Editors of  
FC&A  
Publishing

# **Sneaky Household Secrets**

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*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Romans 8:38-39 NIV*

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## Aluminum foil

**Keep paint where it belongs.** Paint has a way of getting on everything in its path. Protect your faucets, door handles, and other fixtures from splatters by covering them with aluminum foil before you start your paint job. It's easy to scrunch around things, stays firmly in place, and is a snap to remove.

**Make an emergency funnel.** Don't worry if you're caught without a funnel. Fashion one out of aluminum foil. It's easy and disposable — great for those real messes.

**Line a paint tray.** Use a layer of aluminum foil to line your paint tray. When you're through, just throw away the liner. Clean-up complete!

**Entertain kitty.** Need a fast cat toy? Make a ball out of crumpled aluminum foil.

## Baby powder

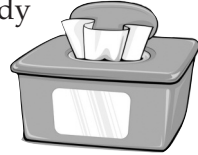
**Brush away wet sand.** You go to the beach for fun, but hate to clean up all the sand that gets tracked inside. Sprinkle baby powder over your wet sandy skin and leave the grains outside. The powder absorbs the moisture and the sand will brush off easily.

**Powder your playing cards.** A light dusting with baby powder keeps cards from sticking together, and lets you shuffle smoothly.

**Smooth sliding for gloves.** When you get a new pair of rubber gloves, they have a powdery coating on the inside that makes them slide off and on easily. When that powder wears off, you can dust your fingers with baby powder or baking soda, or puff a little inside the gloves. This works well for helping slide boots on more easily, too.

## Baby wipes

**Make a quick getaway.** Keep baby wipes handy in the car for a quick cleaning after pumping gas, changing a tire, or tending to other driving emergencies. You'll be on the road again, fresh and clean, in no time.



**Reuse as storage containers.** When all the baby wipes are gone, those sturdy plastic containers make handy, stackable boxes for office items and small tools. They also make good sewing kits, first-aid or make-up kits for your car, and mini fishing tackle boxes.

## Bakeware

**Make mini-meat loaves.** Instead of using a loaf pan, fill the cups of a large muffin tin with your meat loaf mixture. These mini-loaves will bake faster and more thoroughly, plus you'll have a single serving for each family member.

It's easy to freeze any leftovers and pop them in the microwave for a quick meal or snack later.



**Hold your condiments.** Cookout time can get messy, but you can at least keep all the condiments neat and organized. Put relish, pickles, chopped onions, mustard, and other toppings in the cups of a muffin pan. Cover with aluminum foil or plastic wrap and you have a convenient travel container.

**Get speedy baked potatoes.** They will bake more quickly and evenly if you stand them on end in muffin pans. Stuffed green peppers, apples, and tomatoes also bake better in muffin pans.

**No more spills for Fido.** Is your dog constantly tipping his outside water dish over? To remedy this problem, switch to using an angel food cake pan. Hammer a stake through the center hole and fill with fresh water.

**Keep a crowd cool.** Got a crowd-sized pitcher of lemonade or a punchbowl full of your favorite party beverage? Keep them cool in a big way with ice cubes made in muffin tins.

**Cut corn without the mess.** If you love fresh corn but can't bite it off the cob, or if you want to freeze summer corn for later, try this no-mess approach. Take an angel food cake pan and set the ear of corn upright into the center hole. As you cut, the kernels will fall into the pan, not all over your counter.

## Baking soda

**Test baking soda for freshness.** Baking soda won't last forever. To see if yours is still good to bake with, put one-fourth teaspoon into one tablespoon of vinegar. If the baking soda bubbles, go ahead and use it.

**Clean iron cookware.** It's not as easy to clean an iron skillet as the nonstick type, but even cooked-on food will loosen up with this solution. Put two teaspoons of baking soda and a quart of water into your iron cookware and bring it to a boil.

**Get rid of grease on your dishes.** Add a tablespoon of baking soda to your dishwasher. It will cut grease and soften your hands at the same time.

**Sweeten up sour sponges.** When your kitchen sponge gets that yucky stale smell, you know it's full of germs and bacteria. Soak it in a mixture of two tablespoons of baking soda and one pint of water.



**Scrub away melted plastic.** If you've gotten plastic on your toaster or toaster oven, the melted mess can be a real pain. Get rid of it with a damp cloth and baking soda.

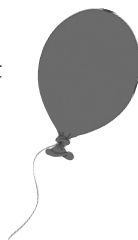
**Repel rain from your windshield.** For a slicker windshield, put a good amount of baking soda on a dampened cloth and wipe your windows inside and out.

**Sanitize hair-care tools.** Could your brushes and combs stand a good cleaning? Soak them in hot water and one-fourth cup of baking soda.

### Balloons

**Chill with a cool ice pack.** If you have a few uninflated balloons left over from a birthday celebration, no need to pack them away. Put them to good use now. Fill with water and freeze to use as ice packs.

**Carry flowers cleverly.** A neat way to transport cut flowers is to stick them into an uninflated balloon, add some water, and fasten a rubber band around the neck.



### Bedsheets

**Let old sheets handle big projects.** Never throw out big sheets, even if they are past their prime. They are great as dropcloths during painting projects. And what easier way to pick up leaves than to rake them all into the middle of a big sheet? When you're done, just fold up the corners and drag them away to the compost pile.

**Try this breezy picnic solution.** For an outdoor party, cover your picnic table with a colorful twin-size fitted sheet. It will look festive, and the elastic corners will hold the sheet in place, even if the wind blows.

## Belts

**Hold that ladder.** You will save space in your garage if you hang your ladder horizontally on nails in the wall. To keep it from slipping off if you bump into it, screw or nail an old belt into the wall, and then buckle it around the ladder to hold it in place.

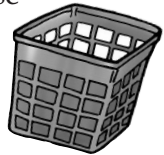


**Collar your pet.** Don't pay a lot of money for an expensive collar for your dog or cat. You probably have an old leather belt you don't use anymore that would be perfect. Just cut it off to the appropriate length, poke new holes in it, and strap on.

**Make a doggy leash.** To fashion an impromptu leash for your pet, run a belt underneath your pet's collar and through the belt buckle.

## Berry baskets

**Put packets in their place.** How do you store those little packets of dry soup, taco seasoning mix, and hot chocolate mix? Use plastic berry baskets. The packets fit in neatly and don't get scattered throughout your cabinets.



**Strain single servings.** Berry baskets make great colanders for draining single servings of pasta or washing handfuls of fruits or vegetables.

**Protect your plants.** Don't let rabbits, squirrels, and birds get to your fragile seedlings. Place a berry basket upside down over them and allow water, oxygen, and sunlight in, while keeping the critters out. You can also protect bulbs from rodents by burying them inside a berry basket.

## Bleach

**Kill germs on recycled items.** Bargain shoppers that pick up toys or kitchen items at garage sales or flea markets should be concerned about germs. If the items are waterproof, soak them for two to five minutes in a solution of three-fourths cup bleach and one gallon of warm soapy water. Rinse and allow to air-dry — in the sun, if possible. No more germs.



**Save your garbage from neighborhood marauders.** Are dogs constantly exploring your garbage and scattering it from one end of the neighborhood to the other? Sprinkle a bit of chlorine bleach inside the trash bag before you close it and your canine friends will turn their noses up at the smell.

## Bobby pins

**Mark your place.** Don't rely on an easy-to-lose bookmark or dog-eared page to save your spot in your book or magazine. Slide a bobby pin onto the page instead. It won't fall out or damage your reading material.

**Protect your fingers from an angry hammer.** Hold a small nail with your fingers and you may end up with a smashed thumb. But if you grip the nail between the prongs of a bobby pin, you can hammer away in safety.

## Bread

**Clean up broken glass safely.** Gently press a slice of bread over an area where you've broken glass, and you'll pick up the tiny slivers. Carefully throw the bread away.

**Freshen up marshmallows.** When your marshmallows get hard and stale, put a couple of slices of fresh bread in the bag with them, close it, and leave for two or three days. Your marshmallows should become softer and fresher tasting.

## Butter

**Save your tablecloth from messy drips.** If you are forever getting drips on your table from your pitcher of coffee creamer, dab a bit of soft butter or margarine just on the lip.

**Butter up your cheese.** Don't waste good semi-hard cheese by letting the cut edges harden or get moldy. Give them a light wiping with butter and your cheddar or Swiss will stay soft and fresh.

**Grease easy.** Save the wrappers from sticks of butter or margarine by storing them in a plastic bag in the refrigerator. Then when it's time to bake, use one to grease your cookie sheet or muffin pan.

## Buttons

**Make your own jewelry.** Got a fancy old button that no longer has a home? Give it new life by making it into a decorative pin, tie tack, or brooch. Just glue a safety pin to the back, or you can use a pin-making kit, available at arts and crafts stores.

**Organize your sewing box.** Keep extra buttons handy by slipping them onto large safety pins. You can even color-code them for easier matching.

**Button up your gloves.** Do you keep losing gloves or mittens? Here's a trick to keep that from happening again. Sew buttons the size of the coat buttons onto the wrists of your gloves. When you take the gloves off, button them to the front of your coat. They'll stay put until your next outing.

## Candles

**Plug a pot.** Need to seal the holes in the bottom of a garden pot, but you're fresh out of cork? Try a few old candle stubs instead.

**Enjoy candlelight for hours.** Candles will burn longer and drip less if you put them in the freezer for at least an hour before lighting them.

## Carpet remnants

**Save your tools from tumbles.** If your workshop has a concrete floor, it's a good idea to put down some carpet remnants — at least in the areas closest to your work bench. Tools and containers that get knocked off the bench will be much less likely to break. Your feet will notice the difference, too.

**Make a travel mat.** A small piece of carpet in your car trunk can come in handy in the case of emergencies. Cut yourself a section big enough to kneel or lie on and stow it with your spare tire. That way, if you get a flat or have to look under the car, you can avoid the dirty ground.

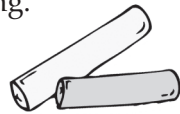
## Cat litter

**Deodorize shoes.** Shoes can get pretty smelly — especially athletic shoes. To remedy that, fill a couple of knee-high nylons with kitty litter and tie a knot in the top. Insert in sneakers and leave overnight.

**Toss out old paint.** If you need to dispose of leftover latex paint, mix kitty litter into the can until it reaches the consistency of oatmeal. Then leave the lid off. When the paint dries up completely, you can just toss it with the rest of your trash.

## Chalk

**Cover up water stains.** You have a water mark on your white ceiling, but it's hard to match the paint for a touchup, and you don't want to paint the entire ceiling. Try rubbing some white chalk on the spot instead. Blow off the excess and repeat if necessary.



**Get rid of ring around the collar.** Stains on shirt collars are caused by oils from your skin. If you rub the stain heavily with white chalk, it will absorb the oil and the stain should wash out more easily.

## Cloth scraps

**Safeguard fragile dishware.** When cleaning delicate items in your sink, first line the basin with a layer of rags or a couple of old towels. The occasional dropped wine glass will stand a much better chance of survival.

**Make fashionable gift box decorations.** Cut leftover material into strips, sew shorter pieces together if necessary, spray starch them, and iron. Tie these thrifty and personal cloth ribbons around gifts for a pretty designer look.

## Clothespins

**Clip to jog your memory.** Even if you never hang laundry outside to dry, keep a bag of clothespins in the laundry room. When you have an item that needs special attention before it's washed, clip a clothespin to it as you toss it in the hamper. That way, you'll be reminded to deal with it before you put it in the washer.

**Ensure your privacy.** Carry a few clothespins with you when traveling. If you get a hotel room with drapes that don't quite meet, just pull the edges together and clip them. You'll keep out any distracting light as well as unwanted peepers.

**Make handy holders.** Attach a row of clip clothespins to a closet wall with a glue gun. They make convenient holders for scarves and gloves.

## Coffee

**Get rid of odors.** The next time there's a bad smell in a small, enclosed space — like a closet, freezer, or pantry — try setting out a bowl of unused coffee grounds. Pretty soon things will be country-fresh. You can use this same strategy to prevent odors from cropping up in the first place. For instance, if you have a major appliance bound for storage — for a couple of days or a couple of years — fill an old pantyhose leg or knee-high stocking with fresh coffee grounds, knot it closed, and toss inside. No musty odors.

**Have your coffee and wash with it, too.** Don't just dump those used coffee grounds in the trash. Rub them gently all over your hands, then rinse well for softer, smoother skin.

**Freeze it for a fast brew.** Make a pot of very strong coffee. Pour it into an ice cube tray and freeze. When you want a cup of "instant" real coffee, toss a couple of cubes in a cup and add boiling water.

## Coffee filters

**Catch drips from popsicles.** Does the ding-ding of the ice cream truck bring back fond memories of icy cool treats on a stick? Do you remember how messy your hands would be afterward? Keep that from happening to the young ones in your family. Just poke the stick of a frozen treat through a paper coffee filter, and it will catch those sticky drips.

**Make colorful snowflakes.** Need a winter craft for little ones too young to use scissors? Make "snowflakes" by folding coffee filters into squares or triangles, then dipping the corners into a solution of food coloring and water. Let dry, open up, and marvel at the colorful designs.

## Combs

**Remove buttons carefully.** To update the look of a favorite jacket, you might want to replace the buttons. The first thing to do is remove the old ones. To make sure you don't cut the fabric, slip the teeth of a pocket comb between the button and the garment. Use a seam ripper or razor blade between the button and the comb to slice the threads.





**Hold a nail steady.** If you hit your fingers more than the nail, try slipping the nail in between the teeth of a comb. No more smashed thumbs.

**Spread glue like a pro.** Got a large surface to glue? Use a comb to spread out your adhesive for even coverage.

## Cooking oil

**Remove adhesive from glass.** Dab a small amount of cooking oil onto your glass with a paper towel or napkin and rub firmly. If the adhesive is stubborn, use some toothpaste along with the oil. When all the stickiness is removed, wash the glass with warm soapy water.



**Fight crow's feet with olive oil.** Gently dab a drop around your eyes each night before bed.

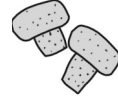
**Save time after grating.** Tired of picking stuck-on food off your cheese grater? Rub it down with vegetable oil before the job, and cleanup will be a snap.

**Remove sticky tar.** If you've gotten tar or pitch onto something by accident, it makes quite a mess. Rub a little olive oil onto the area and let it sit. The tar should soften up so you can scrape it off easily.

**Say *arrivederci* to tomato stains.** You've made a double batch of spaghetti sauce but hate to store it in your plastic ware because it stains — a common complaint about tomato-based foods. Avoid the problem by coating the inside of your container with vegetable oil before pouring in your food. A nonstick cooking spray works well.

## Cork

**Store corn holders safely.** Corn holders tossed willy-nilly into your utensil drawer are a bad idea. Finding them for your corn-on-the-cob dinner can be a time-consuming — and sometimes painful — job. Keep them handy by sticking a pair into each end of a large cork.



**Keep your keys afloat.** Whenever you go boating or swimming, attach your keys to a cork. Then if they fall overboard, they will float and you can retrieve them easily.

**Spare your furniture finish.** Protect your wooden furniture from scratches by gluing thin circles of cork to the bottom of unpadded lamps, vases, knickknacks, or other items.

**Say goodbye to stubborn corks.** Need help getting that cork out of the bottle? Take a hot, wet towel and wrap it around the neck of the bottle. The heat will make the glass expand a little and your corkscrew should finish the job nicely.

## Cornstarch

**Make your own dry shampoo.** Busy schedules sometimes mean you don't have time to wash your hair every day. You could spend big bucks for a commercial dry shampoo or try a more frugal option — cornstarch. Simply work a little into your scalp and brush out.

**Quiet a squeaky floor.** If your hardwood floor squeaks whenever you step in a certain spot, try sprinkling a little cornstarch or baby powder between the boards.

**Mix up an eco-friendly spray starch.** Combine two table-  
spoons of cornstarch with one pint of cold water in a clean  
spray bottle. The next time your clothes need a bit of stiffening,  
shake the bottle, spritz on, and iron as usual.

**Customize a scented body powder.** Add about 10 drops of  
your favorite fragrance to two cups of cornstarch. Mix well  
and let sit for a day. Store in a glass or plastic container.

**Whip up a fluffier omelet.** Do you like your scrambled eggs  
or omelets super fluffy? Add one-fourth teaspoon of corn-  
starch for every egg you're beating.

## Cucumbers

**Repel mosquitoes.** For a natural mosquito repellent that will  
leave you feeling cool as a ... well, you know ... try this trick.  
Peel and puree a cucumber. Strain the liquid into an  
ice cube tray and freeze it. Before you go outside,  
rub your face and hands with the ice cubes.  
Mosquitoes will stay away.



**Hold your dip.** A large cucumber makes a unique container  
for your vegetable dip. Leave the peel on and cut the cucumber  
in half, lengthwise. For a deeper bowl, cut off a thinner section.  
Scoop out the insides, and fill the remaining shell with your  
favorite dip. You can use other vegetables, like green peppers,  
as well.

**Get a golden glow.** Treat your skin to a wonderful, radiant  
glow with cucumbers and honey. Blend one-half teaspoon of  
honey with one-half cup of sliced cucumber to a fine consis-  
tency, then spread over your face. Keep the mask on for about  
a half-hour, then rinse.

## Drinking straws

**Hull strawberries the fast and easy way.** Got a basket of strawberries to clean and hull? Make the job go faster by taking a drinking straw and pushing the end straight through the strawberry. It takes the hull right out and leaves the berry whole.

**Improve grilled burgers.** Make a hole in the middle of each raw patty with a drinking straw, then toss the straw away. Your burgers will cook more evenly and quickly.

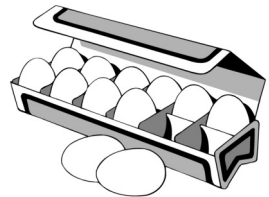
**Get your ketchup flowing.** Don't be frustrated by stubborn ketchup. Stick a drinking straw down to the bottom of the bottle, then pull it out. This should break the suction and get things moving.

**Keep necklaces untangled.** Are your necklaces a knotted mess in your jewelry box? First, gather some drinking straws and cut them to whatever length you need to fit in your jewelry box. Then run one end of each necklace through a straw and clasp it. The straws will keep your chains straight and tangle-free.

**Arrange flowers neatly.** If you need flowers to stand up in a vase, but the stem is broken or too short, cut a straw to the length you need and insert the stem into it.

## Egg cartons

**Serve no-mess tacos.** Flip an empty egg carton over and rest taco shells in the grooves. You'll be able to fill several at a time and keep them upright for serving.



**Plan fun time for little artists.** Fill the little egg spaces inside an empty egg carton with different colors of paint and let your kids or grandkids go to town. Storage and cleanup is a snap, too — just close and toss.

**Stash fragile treasures.** If an egg carton can safely guard a dozen eggs, it can do the same for other small breakables. Use old cartons to store all kinds of delicate treasures, such as seashells, figurines, and Christmas decorations.

## Glass containers

**Paint drawer pulls without a mess.** If you've got drawer knobs or pulls to paint, you know how hard it is to keep the paint only where you want it. After removing the knobs from your piece of furniture, set them into the opening of a bottle. You'll be able to turn the bottle as needed, leave them to dry, and never get a drop of paint on your fingers.

**Resize a vase.** You've chosen a vase that has the look you want, but it's too large for your bouquet. No need to look for another container. Just place a slender olive jar inside your vase. It won't be noticed, and the flowers inside it will stand up instead of flopping over the sides.

**Make a pot for potpourri.** Fill a clean jelly jar with some potpourri, punch a few holes in the lid, and you've got a sweet-smelling addition to an otherwise musty closet.

## Gloves

**Clean mini-blinds the quick and easy way.** Turn a fleece-lined glove inside out, put it on, and spray the fingers with your favorite cleaner. Now run your fingers between the slats of

the blinds for a dust-free finish. For blinds that need deeper cleaning, put cloth gloves on over rubber gloves. Dip your fingers in a solution of one teaspoon of ammonia plus one quart of water. Rub each slat between your fingers and thumb.

**Give secondhand gloves a second career.** Thin or torn gloves can still provide comfort. Use them as liners for thicker gloves in winter, or wear them under rubber gloves to cut down on that sticky, rubbery feel.

**Cap broom handles.** Cut the finger off an old rubber glove and slip it over the end of your broom like a casing. Then when you have to prop the broom against a wall, the rubber will keep it from sliding and scratching your wall. This will also work on outdoor tools, like hoes and shovels.

**Keep tools at your fingertips.** If your work gloves are split at the fingers, don't toss them out. Instead, go ahead and cut off the fingers, make a couple of slits along the cuff and thread the glove onto your belt. Each finger makes a handy place to store a screwdriver or pair of pliers while working.

## Glue

**Tighten a screw hole.** If you've screwed and unscrewed using the same hole multiple times, it can get too loose to hold a screw in firmly. Soak a cotton ball in ordinary white glue, stuff it into the hole, and let it dry for 24 hours. Now your screw should hold.

**Keep buttons on clothing.** Before you ever wear a garment for the first time, squeeze a dot of super glue in the center, coating the threads completely. You may never have to sew on a replacement again.

**Remove a splinter without pain.** Got a splinter? Don't drag out the instruments of torture. Dab the area with a little white glue. Let it dry then peel off the glue and the splinter. This works for cactus needles, too.

**Mix up plaster in a jiff.** Don't let a few small ceiling cracks force you into a whole new plaster job. Mix a little white glue with baking soda and use the paste to cover the small cracks.

## Hair curlers

**Store hair ribbons smoothly.** Wrap your ribbons around hair curlers and they will stay wrinkle-free until you are ready to use them. This is also a great way to keep them organized by color or style.

**Protect a sore finger.** Slip a small hair curler over an injured finger and you won't bump it so easily. It can also serve as a splint if you need to keep your finger straight.

**Make life easier if you have joint pain.** Many people with arthritis find it difficult to hold and manipulate everyday objects. Here's an easy way to get a grip on things. Take the foam tube off a hair curler and stick it on the end of anything you handle often — pens, pencils, your toothbrush, cosmetics, and cooking utensils.

## Ice cube trays

**Organize your jewelry.** Tired of digging through your jewelry box for a matching pair of earrings? Separate your baubles by using ice cube trays — one pair of earrings in each cube. You can also put rings, pins, and necklaces in the compartments. Best of all, the trays will stack neatly in a drawer.

**Save that soup.** Whenever you have just a little leftover soup or stew, pour it into an ice cube tray and freeze. It will keep longer than it would in the refrigerator, and the next time you make soup, you can just add the extra cubes to the pot.

**Store extra eggs in the freezer.** If you have more eggs on hand than you can use right now, freeze some for later. Just crack one egg into each compartment of an ice cube tray and freeze. When the egg cubes are hard, transfer them to a plastic freezer bag. Now you can take them out as you need them. Be sure to wash the ice cube trays in hot soapy water after you remove the eggs. Raw eggs can harbor harmful bacteria that can make you sick.

## Ice cubes

**Degrease the disposal.** Fatty foods can do a number on garbage disposals. If yours is clogged with a greasy mess, throw a few ice cubes in there. The cold will help the fat congeal to a point where the machine can deal with it.

**Get fresh-tasting rice the second time around.** Reheat leftover rice in the microwave with an ice cube on top. The added moisture will really perk up the taste.

**Enjoy fun and fruity entertaining.** To jazz up drinks for parties, freeze maraschino cherries, grapes, or chunks of other fruit in your ice cubes.

## Laundry baskets

**Haul groceries with ease.** Keep a couple of laundry baskets and a cooler in the trunk of your car. The baskets will make



carrying a load of groceries into the house faster and easier, and the cooler is great for those spur-of-the-moment shopping trips or when you can't go straight home to unload.

**Gather produce from the garden.** A plastic laundry hamper can help keep your kitchen clean during harvest time. Use it to gather fresh vegetables from your garden. Then stop by the water hose and wash away the grit. Let it drain completely before taking it into the kitchen.

**Practice safer bathing for babies.** If your toddler is too big for bathing in the sink, but not yet ready for the tub, try something called a wet-crib. Fill your tub with a few inches of water and set a laundry basket in. Place your baby in the basket. He'll have some freedom as you wash him, but won't go slipping all over the bathtub. Don't use a basket with broken slats, however, as these can be sharp and dangerous.

## Lemons

**Freshen a cutting board.** It can get pretty pungent after a few rounds of onions or garlic. To help lift the odor such foods leave behind, rub the surface with a fresh slice of lemon. Afterwards, just rinse and wipe dry.



**Make fluffy rice every time.** Add a teaspoon of fresh lemon juice to the water first thing and your rice will never be sticky again.

**Keep cats at bay.** If you've got cats that love to lay in your flower beds, scatter lemon peels around their favorite spots. The smell of citrus should drive them away.

## Marshmallows

**Put a stop to candle drips.** Are you tired of eating wax along with your birthday cake? Push each candle into a marshmallow, then set onto the frosting. Any candle drips wind up on the marshmallows — which you can remove and toss.

**Make fast frosting that's finger-licking good.** Out of frosting for your cupcakes? Don't worry. Plop a marshmallow on top of each one a minute or so before they're due to come out of the oven. You'll have an instant, gooey topping.

## Nail polish

**Paint some cool nails.** Store your nail polish in the refrigerator and it will last longer and go on more smoothly.



**Repair delicate lace.** If you've got a tear in your lace curtain or tablecloth, make a fast and easy repair by placing a piece of wax paper under the cut and brushing a little clear fingernail polish across the damage.

**Tighten drawer knobs.** Do the knobs on your drawers always seem to work themselves loose? Coat the knobs' screws with clear fingernail polish, then put the knobs back on. Let the polish dry. Your knobs should now hold nice and tight.

**Tie your shoes with flair.** When the ends of your shoelaces get a little frayed and difficult to lace, try dipping the tips into fingernail polish and letting them dry.

**Mend a torn screen.** A hole in your screen may be small, but it's still big enough to let in mosquitoes. Don't buy a new

screen because of one flaw. Take some clear fingernail polish and dab over the hole. Apply three or four coats, letting each dry before applying the next. The polish will form an invisible barrier that will keep the bugs out and save your screen.

**Protect against an allergic reaction.** Paint the back of a wristwatch with clear nail polish to prevent an allergic rash. You may need to repeat the process if it wears off.

## Newspaper

**Make Easter basket “grass.”** Instead of buying grass for Easter baskets this year, shred up the slick, colorful advertisements that come with your newspaper. This makes pretty, multicolored “grass” to nestle those Easter eggs in.

**Dry out wet shoes.** Got caught in the rain? Let newspaper absorb the damaging moisture in your shoes. Crumple up several pieces then stuff them inside your wet shoes. Set them somewhere that’s not too hot so they can dry slowly. If your shoes are really sopping wet, you may need to change the paper a few times.



**Wrap up a fun gift.** The colorful Sunday comic pages make great gift wrap, especially for kids’ gifts. To give it some extra pizzazz, spray the finished product with hair spray. You’ll have a nice glossy shine and no inky fingers.

**Keep window glass paint-free.** Need a cheap and easy way to keep paint off glass when you’re painting windows? Here’s a trick that doesn’t even use tape. Cut newspaper into strips, dampen, and press onto the glass next to the wood. This will protect the glass, and come off much easier than masking tape.

## Pantyhose

**Squirrel away bulbs for spring.** Place bulbs inside the leg of a pantyhose, label, close off the end, and hang for storage until next season.

**Flour baking pans with ease.** Fill the foot of an old, clean pantyhose with flour and keep it in your canister. The next time you have to prep a baking pan, just shake the foot lightly. This also works well if you need a floured surface to roll out your bread or pastry dough.

**Store wrapping paper without fuss.** To keep a partially used roll of wrapping paper from getting torn, you can place it inside the leg of an old pair of pantyhose. Store several rolls by dropping one in each leg and draping it over a hanger — with one leg on each side. Suspend several pairs of filled pantyhose on one hanger, then hang in your closet.

## Paper clips

**Keep the iron hot.** If your iron seems to be “losing steam,” check the underside. Your steam holes could be clogged with mineral deposits. If this is the case, make sure your iron is unplugged and cool to the touch, then simply unbend a paper clip and use the little tool to break up and remove the guilty parties. Now it’s back to the ironing board.

**Pit your cherries.** Open up a paper clip so that it forms a little hook, then use it to remove the pit from fresh cherries. Stick the hook under the pit, twist, and give the cherry a little pinch with your other hand. The pit should pop right out.



## Paper towels

**Filter coffee in a pinch.** You simply must have your coffee in the morning, but you're out of coffee filters and there's no time for a trip to the store. If you have some paper towels in the house, you're in luck. Fold and tuck into your coffee maker as an emergency filter.

**Remove silk from corn.** To make sure you get all the silk from an ear of corn after you husk it, rub it down with a damp paper towel.

**Keep frozen bread tasting fresh.** If you freeze bread for later use, put a paper towel into the bag or container with it. The towel will absorb moisture that can make bread soggy when it thaws.

**Clean your opener.** After a while, your can opener can get a bit grungy around the blades. Scrub it with an old toothbrush, then "open" a few layers of paper towels with it to clean the blades thoroughly.

## Peanut butter

**Plug up drippy cones.** Do you get annoyed by that little hole in the bottom of ice cream cones? Does your cool treat melt and drip out all over your hands? Plug it up in a tasty way by dropping a small amount of peanut butter into the cone before scooping your ice cream. Not only will you have less mess, but your last bite of cone will hold a surprise.

**Say no to fish odor.** If you love fried fish but hate the lingering smell in your house, test out this trick. Next time you're ready to fry up a batch, drop a small amount of peanut butter into the pan with the fish.

**Catch a mouse.** Forget the stereotype of the cheese-loving mouse. What these critters really go for is the same thing most kids crave — peanut butter. Use some to bait your traps and the mice will come running.

## Petroleum jelly

**Plunge like a pro.** For greater stability and a better seal on the drain, rub a little petroleum jelly around the ring of your plunger before putting it to work.

**Shield your car battery from damage.** Corrosion on your battery terminals can keep your car at a standstill. Prevent this particular mishap by covering your clean battery terminals with petroleum jelly.

**Change outdoor light bulbs easily.** Weather, dirt, pollen, and dust can all make outdoor light bulbs seem welded into the fixture. But if you smear a thin layer of petroleum jelly onto the threads of the bulb before you screw it in, you'll be able to change it out later with no problems. Be careful not to get the petroleum jelly onto the bulb or the electrical conductor at the base of the threads. If you do, simply wipe it off with a paper towel, then screw the bulb into the socket.

**Keep paint where it belongs.** Before you start painting, rub down doorknobs, hinges, and other surfaces you wish to keep paint-free with petroleum jelly. Any mistakes will wipe right off — no scraping.

**Switch out candles effortlessly.** It's easier to remove a candle if you rub a little petroleum jelly inside the candle holder first.

**Shampoo baby without tears.** Before giving your baby a bath, rub a little petroleum jelly above and around her eyes.

The rinse water will be diverted away from her eyes, and you'll avoid a potentially tearful situation.

## Pillowcases

**Whip up a fun travel bag.** Whether you're going to Grandma's for the night or a weekend camping with the guys, a soft suitcase makes loading the car easier. Take a pillowcase — king-size if you're a big packer — and install a zipper, drawstring, or strips of Velcro to close the end. Pack away and toss in the trunk. This makes a great project for kids, who will love having a personalized bag made from their favorite character linens.

**Store linens dust- and worry-free.** Take an old pillowcase and sew a zipper, Velcro strips, or a drawstring onto the opening, and use it to store out-of-season blankets.

**Wash delicates carefully.** You don't have to buy a special bag for washing your fine knits, silk items, and lingerie. Just put them in a large pillow case, tie the top shut, and wash on the delicate cycle.



**Layer for smarter traveling.** When packing a pillow for the car, slip on several pillowcases. Not only will your pillow be more comfortable to snooze on, but you can peel the top one off when it gets dirty and use it for holding laundry.

**Get organized in your linen closet.** Instead of pawing through stacks of mismatched sheets whenever it's time to change your bed linens, try this handy tip. Fold matching fitted and flat sheets and slip them inside the matching pillowcase. Fold over the end and stack in the closet. Next time your bed needs a change, just grab and go.

**Make your own dust covers for free.** Storing off-season clothes? Instead of throwing out those old pillowcases, cut a small slit in the center of the seam and slip it over a hanger. No more dust on your winter suits.

**Sort laundry while you travel.** Throw a pillowcase into your suitcase for dirty clothes. It will keep stains and odors from getting onto your clean clothes.

**Freshen up stuffed animals.** Somehow, favorite toys never look the same after they've been through the washer, but you know Teddy has to have the occasional bath. Take a few stuffed favorites and drop them inside a clean pillowcase. Tie shut, and wash and dry as usual. You and your child should be pleased with the results.

**Cover a bassinet.** Specialty sheets for a baby's bassinet can be expensive — especially since you need so many. Try using a standard-size pillowcase, instead.

**Clear out cobwebs.** Get rid of dust and webs even in those hard-to-reach corners with this handy homemade tool. Take a long-handled broom and slip a flannel pillowcase over the bristles. Secure it around the handle with string or a rubber band. Now sweep away — on your floor or walls — and watch the cobwebs cling to the flannel. Turn the pillowcase inside out when it gets dirty, sweep up some more, then throw it in the wash.

## Plastic bags

**Keep feet dry in bad weather.** Even the best-made snow boots and galoshes can leak. Keep your feet dry by slipping a plastic grocery bag over your socks before you put on your



foul weather gear. You can tuck the ends up into your pants or tighten the bag around your ankle with an old shoelace. Either way, no more wet feet. This will also make sliding your foot into tight boots a little easier.

**Wake up to frost-free windshields.** If scraping snow and ice off your windshield in the morning isn't your favorite way to start the day, try covering your windshield at night with a plastic garbage bag or sheet of plastic. Hold it in place by closing the car doors on the edges. In the morning, you can just lift the garbage bag off and underneath you have a perfectly clear windshield.

**Save your back when shampooing carpet.** Don't worry about moving all your furniture into the garage when you want to shampoo your carpet. Simply pull a plastic grocery bag up over each furniture leg and hold it closed with a rubber band or tape it firmly in place. Move each piece only as much as necessary to shampoo.

**Slide on a disposable paint tray.** Instead of using expensive roller tray liners, slip two plastic grocery bags — one going in each direction — over your roller tray. When you're through, peel them off, inside out, and toss away.

**Pull up poison ivy safely.** Don't take chances when removing poison ivy or other rash-inducing plants from your yard. Cover your hand and arm with a plastic garbage bag. You can pull the plants up by the roots, and then carefully pull the bag off your arm and over the plants with your other hand. Now the offending plants are bagged and ready for disposal.

**Make a handy garment bag.** Plastic trash bags make great inexpensive garment bags. Just cut a slit in the bottom of each bag and slip over the hanger.

**Shake out your dust mop.** To get the dust off your dust mop without redistributing it in the air, tie a plastic grocery bag over the head of the mop and then shake. The dirt and dust will come off in the bag, and you can just take it off and throw it away.

**Handle emergency storage on the go.** Save an empty tissue box and stuff it with small plastic grocery bags. Keep this in the car for garbage, wet shoes, or other messy emergencies.

**Give new life to a leaky vase.** If you've got an old vase that has cracks or chips and no longer holds water, try lining it with a plastic grocery bag. Pour in your water, add flowers, and you can get many more years of enjoyment from an old treasure.

**Keep your fan blades paint-free.** Plan on painting your ceiling? Need to touch up a stain or repair? Don't worry about taking down your ceiling fan. Simply slip a plastic grocery bag over each fan blade and secure. No drips or spills to remove.

## Plastic containers

**Decorate cakes like an expert.** You don't have to be a professional baker to decorate a cake beautifully. Fill a clean mustard or ketchup squeeze bottle with icing. Now it's a snap to frost your cookies, cupcakes, and cakes with professional-looking designs and lettering.

**Roll on the glue.** For craft projects, make a handy glue dispenser from an empty roll-on deodorant bottle. Just pop off the ball top and wash all the parts thoroughly. Fill the bottle with glue. Put the ball back in place, and you are ready to roll.

**Keep string at your fingertips.** For handy string storage, take a clean two- or three-liter plastic soda bottle and cut off the bottom. Nail it upside down on your garage or workroom wall and place a roll of string inside. Feed the end of the string down and out the bottle's neck. For even more convenience, attach a pair of scissors to the bottle with a separate length of string.

**Make a disposable funnel.** Cut the bottom off a clean, empty two-liter soda bottle and you have a great funnel for all those messy jobs in the kitchen or garage. When you're through, you won't feel bad if you have to toss it away.

**Transport flowers without crushing.** The next time you want to take cut flowers somewhere, don't worry about laying them on the car seat without water. Instead, cut the top off of a two-liter soda bottle, making sure it's still tall enough for your flowers to completely fit inside. Put in a few inches of water. Stand your flowers inside and cover the opening with plastic wrap and a rubber band.

**Dispense cooking oil.** A clean dish detergent bottle makes a handy dispenser for cooking oil. You can control how much you add, and you don't have to deal with messy drips.

**Have fun with arts and crafts.** Wash and dry several empty roll-on deodorant bottles and fill with different colors of paint. Give your kids big pieces of paper and let them go to town. You'll have all the fun and creativity without messy jars and brushes. Afterwards, pop the lids on the bottles and save for the next project.

**Water plants with a squeeze.** Ever try to pour a cup of water into a high, hanging plant? Make it easier on yourself with this nifty idea. Thoroughly clean and rinse a squeezable

dishwashing liquid bottle. Fill with fresh water and plant food, and see how well you can water hard-to-reach greenery.

**Try out this travel doggie dish.** An old margarine tub makes a great food dish for Fido when you take him on the road.

**Store sugar creatively.** Clean and dry an empty plastic milk jug, then fill with granulated sugar. The handle makes it a cinch to pour the right amount into your spoon or measuring cup.

**Recycle automotive oil.** If you change your own oil, you know you're saving money. Be sure and save the environment, too, by catching that motor oil in a clean plastic milk jug and taking it to a local service station or recycling center.

**Make handy paint storage.** If your garage is full of old paint cans that are rusty and dented, consider storing leftover paint in clean, dry plastic milk jugs. Use a funnel to pour the paint in and add a few marbles. That way, all you have to do is shake the jug vigorously to mix the paint before using. Be sure and copy down all the brand and color information from the can onto a label or piece of masking tape. You might add notes on where you used the paint — for example, baby's room or exterior window trim.

**Practice winter safety.** Fill clean plastic milk jugs with sand or kitty litter and store in the trunk of your car. They will come in handy the next time you're stuck in ice or snow. You'll also have some extra weight in your car to increase traction in bad weather conditions.

**Pour a better batter.** Next time you're in the mood for waffles or pancakes, transfer your batter into an empty milk jug before hitting the griddle. It's easy to pour just enough batter each time, and if there are leftovers, just cap the jug and put it in the fridge.

**Keep wiper fluid handy.** In winter, a spray bottle in your car comes in handy for de-icing windows and thawing frozen door locks.

**Pretreat stains with precision.** Keep a plastic mustard or ketchup dispenser filled with liquid laundry detergent in the laundry room. Squirt detergent directly on soiled collars and other extra-dirty spots to pretreat before washing.

## Rubber bands

**Say goodbye to messy spoons.** Is your mixing spoon forever sliding down into the bowl as soon as you let go of it? Wrap a rubber band around the handle and it will stay on the edge.

**Tidy up your sewing box.** If you wrap a rubber band around each spool of thread, it will keep the thread from unraveling.

**Improve a child's grip.** Children sometimes have a difficult time holding onto a water glass. A wide rubber band, slipped around the glass, can improve their grip and lessen the chance of spills.

**Organize your car.** Wrap a couple of rubber bands around each sun visor and you can store maps, pencils, directions, or tickets within easy reach.

## Rubbing alcohol

**Free windshields from frost.** Don't spend time on cold winter mornings scraping frost off your car windshield. Keep a spray bottle of rubbing alcohol handy, spritz it on the frozen stuff, and wipe off. Use the same trick for the windows on your house. If you wash them during colder weather, add a

half-cup of rubbing alcohol for every quart of water. After washing them, polish the windows with newspaper. This will keep them free of frost all winter, and you'll keep your clear view of the yard.

**Quick-clean your chrome fixtures.** Polish those chrome bathroom fixtures with rubbing alcohol. It will leave them spotless, and since it evaporates, you won't have to bother rinsing.

**Make an emergency ice pack.** To make a slushy ice pack that will mold comfortably around an injury, mix one part rubbing alcohol with three parts water in a sealable plastic bag. The alcohol will keep the mixture from freezing too hard and stiff. When you need to use it, take the bag out, wrap it in a towel, and apply to the injury. It also works great for soothing headaches.

**Take care of your fridge seal.** Clean the gasket that keeps your refrigerator sealed tight with rubbing alcohol. Then rub it with a little mineral oil to prevent cracking.

## Salt

**Relieve a sore throat.** Your mother probably had you gargle with salt water whenever you had a sore throat, but you've always preferred more modern remedies. Did you know warm saltwater gargling is recommended by the American Academy of Otolaryngology to relieve mild sore throats? Just mix one-fourth teaspoon of salt in one-half cup of warm water for easy and inexpensive sore throat relief.

**Clean up an oven mess.** Ever had a casserole bubble over in the oven? Or the extra cheese on your pizza make an extra sticky spill? If you sprinkle the spill immediately with salt, by the time your oven is cool, you'll have nothing but ash to wipe up.

**Lose the dandruff.** Scrub away those pesky flakes with everyday table salt. Just shake a tablespoon or so into your hair before getting your hair wet. Rub it through your hair, massaging your scalp, then shampoo as usual.

**Keep salt dry and free-flowing.** Few things are more frustrating than a salt shaker that won't give up its salt. If you add a few grains of rice to your shaker when you fill it, your salt will stay dry and free-flowing.

## Socks

**De-feet dust.** Make dusting furniture a fun and easy chore by slipping old socks onto your hands and spraying with furniture polish. Children love it.

**Protect your hands during road emergencies.** Keep a few old socks in the trunk of your car and use them instead of your good gloves when you need to change a tire or handle some other messy emergency.

**Sock it to your next headache.** Everyone has single or worn-out socks lying around. One way to still get some good use from them is to wet them in the sink, stick them in a resealable plastic bag, and pop in the freezer. Take out the frozen sock when you need a compress for headaches, bumps and bruises, or puffy eyes. You can even cut the foot of the sock off and just use the top.



**Make your car shine.** Use old socks as great hand mitts for waxing and buffing your car.

**Protect your glassware.** The next time you have to pack up glass items to move or store, don't worry about them

breaking. Slip each fragile treasure into an old, clean sock. You can even cut long socks into several pieces and get more recycling use out of them.

## Steel wool

**Make a pin cushion.** Cover a steel wool pad with fabric and you've got a handy tool that does double duty. The steel wool will keep your pins and needles in place, and it will keep them sharp.

**Put your steel wool on ice.** These pads are a handy cleaning aid, but put one away wet, and it turns into a rusted mess. You don't want to have to toss them after one use, so try this frugal fix. Store them in the freezer after you use them. Place in a resealable plastic bag or plastic food container, and the next time you need one, just thaw, and go to work.

## Tape

**Give flowers a pick-me-up.** Transparent tape can help your flower arrangement in two ways. First, wrap stems that bend easily with tape to keep them straight. They'll stay fresher because water can rise up to the blossoms more easily. And you can keep cut flowers from flopping in a large vase with a little ingenuity. Wrap tape around the bunch of stems below the top of the vase or make a criss-cross pattern with it across the mouth of your vase. The flowers will stand up straight right where you want them to.

**Design a T-shirt.** To make a fun, custom geometric pattern on a T-shirt, criss-cross transparent tape on the front. Dab on fabric paint with a sponge or brush. Let dry, then remove the tape.



**Never lose screws again.** Lay a piece of double-stick tape near a work surface. Use it to keep small parts from rolling around and getting lost.

**Save plaster from chipping.** When driving a nail through plaster, use two pieces of cellophane tape to mark the spot with an X. This will keep the plaster from splitting or chipping into an unsightly crack.

**Saw without splitting.** Don't let splintered plywood spoil your project. Before you cut, put a strip of masking tape over the starting point. It won't split when you start to saw.

**Protect your timepiece.** Sometimes you need to wear your watch while painting – to remember an appointment or know when to break for lunch, for instance. Cover it with clear tape to keep it clean, and you won't lose sight of the time.

**Match your paint exactly.** To make sure you can mix a new batch of paint to just the right shade, save the coded mixing label that comes with the original paint can. Put a piece of clear strapping tape across it so it won't get accidentally painted over.

## Tea bags

**Ease achy eyes.** When your eyes throb from reading or staring at a computer all day, pamper yourself with some tea. You can drink a cup, of course, or you can wet two tea bags with warm or cool water, and lie down with one tea bag on each eye. Relax for at least fifteen minutes, and your eyes will feel invigorated. For puffy eyes, steep chamomile tea bags and place them in the fridge to chill. When they've cooled, use them as soothing eye compresses.

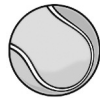
**Stop bleeding gums.** If you've just had a tooth pulled, or if you have a youngster who just lost a tooth, the tannic acid in tea bags can help staunch the bleeding. Wet a tea bag with cool water, place in the tooth socket, and bite down.

**Soothe a sunburn.** You overdid your time in the sun and now you've got a painful sunburn to show for it. Relief is as close as your kitchen cabinet. The tannic acid in tea can help draw the heat from a burn. Drop two or three tea bags into a tepid bath or hold them under the spout as the tub fills. Now enjoy a nice long soak. You can also wet a tea bag or two with cool water and place them directly onto your burned skin. Use light gauze to hold them in place.

**Seed a bare spot of lawn.** A good way to sow grass seed in small patches is with a tea bag. Take a used tea bag, make sure it's moist, and lay it on your dirt. Sprinkle it with grass seed. The bag will hold moisture and gradually decompose.

## Tennis balls

**Give yourself a back rub.** A back massage is relaxing and therapeutic, but professional massages can be expensive. You can massage your own back with a long tube sock and a few tennis balls. Put the balls in the sock, tie the end shut, and grab an end of the sock in each hand. Now work your massager along your back — just as if you were toweling off after a shower.



**Fluff up your down.** Whenever you dry down-filled items like comforters, pillows, vests, or jackets, toss a couple of tennis balls in the dryer, too. The balls will help fluff up the items as they dry.

**Pep up tired feet.** Give your poor feet a quick and easy pick-me-up at home. Sit down, take your shoes off, and roll your feet back and forth over a tennis ball. It will feel almost as good as a professional massage.

## Toothbrushes

**Repurpose an old toothbrush.** When your toothbrush loses its oomph, don't toss it. Use it to clean a whole host of things like the tiny spaces around faucets, tile grout, your fingernails after gardening, mud from the grooves on the bottom of your sneakers, or a grungy can opener.

**Clean a tricky appliance.** An extra, new toothbrush will oil and scrub your waffle iron like a charm.

**Brush food bits off a grater.** Use an old toothbrush to pick the leftover scraps of cheese or other sticky food out of your handheld grater, then run both through the dishwasher.

## Toothpaste

**Deodorize fishy hands.** Get rid of that fishy smell on your hands by washing them with toothpaste.

**Fill nail holes.** Use non-gel toothpaste in a pinch to fill nail holes in a plaster wall. Just squeeze some in, smooth, and let dry. Paint as usual.

## Toothpicks

**Rehang pictures after a paint job.** Don't worry about getting your pictures back in the right spot after painting a room.

Stick a toothpick into the nail hole and paint as usual. After the paint dries, remove the toothpick and rehang your picture.

**Make a cake “tent.”** Your frosted cake is beautiful, but plastic wrap or foil will spoil your hard work. Poke toothpicks into strategic areas around the cake and cover. Now your wrap won't touch the surface.

## Vinegar

**Unclog your shower head.** When mineral deposits build up inside your shower head, getting in there to clean them out might seem like a big hassle. But it shouldn't be. Simply unscrew the shower head from the wall, then disassemble all the parts. Soak them in a bowl of vinegar until the deposits soften up and can be easily brushed away.

**Shine your hair.** Get apple-fresh, glossy hair with an apple cider vinegar rinse. Mix a half-cup of apple cider vinegar with two cups of warm water, and pour over your freshly washed hair.



**Relieve itching.** Bug bites are no fun. Douse those itchy spots with a cotton ball soaked in vinegar to feel better fast.

**Clear up your “in-shield.”** Get haze and grime off the inside of your windshield by wiping it down with vinegar. New cars often have a residue of plastic fumes on the inner windows which will come right off with a sponge.

**Make perfectly poached eggs.** For just the right shape every time, add a few drops of vinegar to the poaching water.

**Banish strong cooking odors.** Simmering a small pot of vinegar on a spare burner will help get rid of ugly odors

from certain cooked vegetables. For bigger jobs, pour a little vinegar into your humidifier and soon your house will smell clean and fresh.

**Revive a crusted paintbrush.** Even if the paint has dried on your brush, all is not lost. Simply let it soak in hot vinegar for a while, then wash in the usual manner.

**Clean more dishes.** You can make your dishwashing liquid go further by adding a few tablespoons of vinegar to the dishwasher. This works with even the cheapest brand of detergent.

**Sharpen your eyesight.** Out of eyeglass cleaner? A drop of vinegar is a safe substitute.

**Make smoke odors disappear.** Remove that smoky smell from your clothing by hanging items above a tub filled with hot water and a cup of vinegar.

**Take care of special plates.** Don't use a vinegar-based dressing if you're serving food on a painted plate. The acidity of the vinegar could ruin the plate, and may leach lead from the paint into your food.

**Loosen glued joints.** If you want to take wood furniture or structures apart, soften the old glue on the joints with vinegar. For best results, apply it generously from a small oil can.

**Remove wallpaper with ease.** Mix up a solution of white vinegar and hot water, and pour into a paint tray or other container wide enough to accommodate a paint roller. Roll onto your wallpapered walls — it may take two or three applications. Your old wallpaper should peel right off.

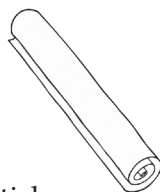
**Make a manicure last.** Before you paint them, clean your nails with cotton balls soaked in vinegar. Your manicure should last days longer.

**Tame frizzy hair.** Mix a cup of vinegar with a cup of water and use as a rinse after you shampoo and condition. Allow the mixture to set for two minutes before rinsing it out.

## Wax paper

**Protect candles during storage.** Pretty colored candles can get scuffed and nicked when you tuck them away in drawers or cupboards. To prevent this, roll your candles up in a piece of wax paper, twist the ends to seal, then store.

**Save your heirloom lace.** Store lace articles between layers of wax paper to keep them from rotting.



**Make hangers glide.** Do your clothes hangers stick and catch on your closet rod? Rub a piece of wax paper along the rod, and hangers should glide smoothly along.

**Shut the door on dust.** Closet doors with louvres or slats allow dust to collect inside. Seal the open slats and keep your clothes dust-free by taping pieces of wax paper on the inside of these doors. You'll also keep moths out.

# SNEAKY

## HOUSEHOLD SECRETS

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- ✓ No need for oven cleaner — even spilled cheese wipes up easily with this simple trick! *Page 33.*
- ✓ Why you should always keep old socks in your car — and they don't go on your feet! *Page 34.*
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- ✓ Yes, you CAN freeze eggs for later use! Here's how it's done. *Page 19.*
- ✓ If you ever break a glass, use this trick to get invisible slivers off the floor. *Page 7.*
- ✓ Easy fix to keep steel wool pads from rusting — makes 'em last and last! *Page 35.*
- ✓ How to store old paint so it opens easily and you can mix it without a paint stirrer! *Page 31.*
- ✓ The right way to remove splinters and cactus needles painlessly — doesn't even involve tweezers! *Page 18.*
- ✓ Easy planting trick keeps rodents from devouring your precious bulbs! *Page 6.*