

21 Eco-Friendly Cleaning Products You Should Use ASAP

Say goodbye to harsh chemicals and say hello to plant-based ingredients that actually work

By Yelena Moroz Alpert and Zoë Sessums

All products featured on Architectural Digest are independently selected by our editors. However, when you buy something through our retail links, we may earn an affiliate commission

With spring cleaning in full swing, arm yourself with eco-friendly cleaning products and your body will thank you. Turns out, over the course of four to five days, the average person spends between 5 and 10 hours scrubbing and dusting away, according to the latest Spring Cleaning Survey by Thumbtack, a home care app. That means if you're sensitive to harsh chemicals in multisurface cleaners and other foaming cleaning solutions, dealing with grime in your house can be quite a headache, literally. What's more, some disinfectant sprays and wipes release toxins, potentially triggering allergies.

That's one of the reasons Devon Holmes, a Thumbtack pro with <u>Uncommon</u> Solutions, switched over to making his own cleaning products. The traditional formulas tended to irritate his skin and throat after a long day of cleaning. These days, his cleaning supplies use basic ingredients. "For example, baking soda is a great odor eliminator and whitener," Holmes says. "When mixed with white vinegar, it is also a powerful cleaning combination for many purposes. All in all, the most anyone truly needs for everyday cleaning is vinegar, alcohol, baking soda, dish soap, and some cleaning tools." He also adds essential oils to his ecofriendly cleaning formulas since they have disinfecting and antibacterial properties and add a nice natural scent to the cleaning experience. One of his favorite DIY products is a glass cleaner, which consists of alcohol, white vinegar, distilled water, and essential oils.

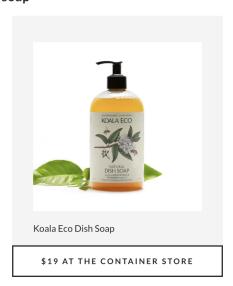
For those who prefer not to concoct cleaning solutions but still want the ecofriendly version, AD has been on the hunt for cleaning products you can feel good about using at home, especially if you have little kids or pets. We found ready-to-use earth-friendly products that will get the job done without harsh chemicals. And we are not the only ones interested in sustainable, plant-based ingredients that can KO a serious mess. According to research from Google Trends, people are searching for eco-friendly cleaning products: The top searched term in the US this past year is "eco-friendly laundry detergent" and other top trending terms include "eco-friendly disinfectant" and "eco-friendly carpet cleaner." Search interest in "biodegradable soap" in the category of cleaning supplies and services more than doubled in the past year.

We did our homework and put dozens of natural cleaning products—sans parabens, phthalates, and phosphates—to the test by wiping smudges off a glass dining room table and windows in a playroom, scrubbing away stubborn stains on countertops, and running load after load of dishes to find a perfect dishwasher detergent that will get rid of grease without leaving a chalky residue.

The following 21 green cleaning products are our favorite biodegradable formulas in reusable or compostable containers that won't end up in a landfill. Plus, tools to give your home-maintenance routine even more sustainability. Happy and healthy cleaning!

Best eco-friendly cleaning products for the kitchen

4. Dreamy dish soap



Koala Eco Lemon Myrtle and Mandarin dish soap is the essence of clean thanks to its fragrant bounty of essential oils. It's Aromatherapy at its best because you'll actually want to wash the dishes. And oh, yeah, its foaming power cuts through grease without having to rely on phthalates or phosphates.

Best eco-friendly cleaning products for the living room

16. The best friend for all your glass surfaces



We tested this on a glass dining table and a glass coffee table, as well as windows, and the results were spectacular. The Koala Eco Peppermint Glass Cleaner dealt with icky, filmy messes by polishing away smears and fingerprints in seconds. The biodegradable formula also removes bacteria and smells amazing so your house is ready for guests. And it will certainly enhance your cleaning routine when the entertaining is all done.