- Life hack

Good Days

10 BRILLIANT USES FOR DISH SOAP

Genius ways to put the cleanser to work

BY SHAY TROTTER



1 SILENCE A SQUEAKY HINGE

Your bathroom door keeps letting out a loud screech whenever someone opens or closes it. The easy fix: Pour a few drops of dish soap on a clean cloth and use it to rub over the hinges. The slick soap lubricates the metal so the door can move smoothly and quietly. Problem solved!



2 Eliminate stubborn stains

The same soap that dislodges stuck-on food from pots works just as well at removing BBQ or pizza sauce from clothes, thanks to its grease-cutting power. Just turn the garment inside out and rinse with cold water to blast the stain from back to front. Add a few drops of dish soap, gently working it in with your fingers, then rinse and toss in the wash.

3 End poison ivy itching

You accidentally brushed against some poison ivy while doing yard work and now have a rash on your arm. The secret to quick relief: Dab dish soap on the affected skin. The soap helps break down the plant's rash-inducing oils to keep it from spreading and nix the itch. You won't feel the urge to scratch, allowing the rash to heal in no time.



4 FIX A STUCK ZIPPER IN A FLASH

If the zipper on a jacket won't budge, reach for dish soap. Simply dab a bit of the soap onto a cotton swab and rub it back and forth over the zipper, adding more if needed. The slippery soap works to lubricate the metal so you can get the zipper moving again without a struggle.

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5 Restore lackluster jewelry

No need to buy pricey cleaners to make non-pearl gemstones look like new again. Fill a bowl with warm water, add a few drops of dish soap and let the jewelry soak for 15 minutes. Then gently scrub the gem with a toothbrush before rinsing and drying with a soft cloth. Dish soap breaks down body oils that can dull jewelry, leaving them sparkling.

6 REMOVE PAINT FROM GLASS

During a home project, you got a bit of water-based paint on your window. The save: Combine warm water with a few drops of dish soap in a small bowl. Soak a rag in the soapy water, wring it out, then blot and scrub at the dried paint. The soapy water will soften the paint so it comes off.





7 WARD OFF GARDEN PESTS

Pests such as aphids and earwigs can wreak havoc on a garden. To fend them off, add 1½ tsp. of dish soap to a 32 oz. water-filled spray bottle and spray it over your plants, including the leaves. The soap dehydrates and kills bugs on contact, plus it deters future pests.

8 FIX A CLOGGED TOILET

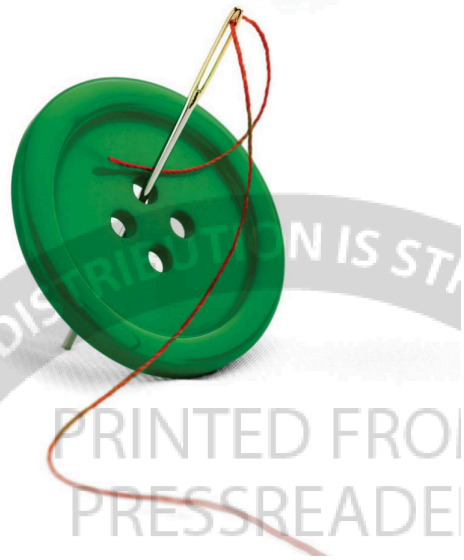
When dealing with a backed-up toilet, grab dish soap. Squirt ½ cup of the soap into the toilet bowl, then slowly add some hot water and let sit for 10 to 20 minutes. This allows the soap to lubricate the pipes, making the blockage easier to dislodge. Once the water level in the toilet has subsided, pour more hot water inside and flush.

9 Fog-proof a bathroom mirror

Rather than wasting time de-fogging your bathroom mirror after a steamy shower, try this: Place a few drops of dish soap on a soft damp washcloth and gently rub it over the mirror before you shower. Once the soap dries, it will leave behind an invisible film that repels moisture.

10 SEW BUTTONS WITH EASE

While organizing your dresser, you discover you have a pair of pants tucked away with a button that needs reattaching. When you finally get a chance to try and sew it back on, however, you realize you can't get the needle through the thick fabric. To make the process easier, coat the needle with a dab of dish soap, then sew the button on as usual. The slick liquid will lubricate the needle so it can glide through the material without a struggle.



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