Household uses for Borax

Borax, also known as sodium borate, is an a naturally occurring substance and an eco-friendly solution for many things around the house. Most commonly used as a cleaning agent, the uses extend far beyond that. *(Safety Warning: You should always use gloves when handling it and keep it out of reach of children and pets. While safe in the diluted solutions, borax could be very harmful to children and pets if ingested.)*

**PEST CONTROL**

1. **Keep roaches, waterbugs, and ants away** by sprinkling a combination of equal parts all-natural borax and sugar.

2. **Keep the mice out** by sprinkling borax on the floor along the wall.

3. **Get rid of bed bugs** by sprinkling borax on your mattress. Let it sit and vacuum it up.

4. **Kill fleas** by sprinkling borax on your carpet. Leave it for an hour and vacuum it up thoroughly.

**CLEANING**

5. **Scrub dirty pots and pans** with a mixture of 1 teaspoon of borax and warm water. Because borax is non-abrasive, it will work on the grime without damaging the surface material.

6. **Remove a stubborn stain** by mixing 1 cup of borax with 2 cups of warm water and apply the paste directly to the stain. Let it sit, then launder as usual. Remove carpet stains by dampening the stain thoroughly and rubbing some borax on it. Vacuum it then finish it off with a vinegar and water solution. Let it dry and repeat if necessary. Use this same method on soiled mattresses. It will get rid of both the odor and stain.

7. **Remove rust** by mixing the above solution with a tablespoon of lemon juice.

8. **Make an all-purpose cleaner** by mixing 2 tablespoons borax and 2 cups hot water in a spray bottle.

9. **Removes oxidation from metals** with borax. The ingredient is also used as a flux in welding.

10. **Make your own floor and wall cleaner** by mixing 1/3 cup borax, 1 tablespoons ammonia and 1 teaspoon dish detergent into 1 gallon of water.

11. **As a laundry detergent**, add one cup of borax to each load and significantly boost your cleaning power.

12. **Remove stains from stainless steel or porcelain sinks** with this recipe: Make a paste with 1 cup borax and 1/4 cup lemon juice. Using a sponge or cloth, rub the stain with the paste. Rinse with warm water.
13. **Clean your toilet** with this solution: Dissolve 1/2 cup of borax with 1 gallon of water. Scrub the toilet with a strong brush, let it sit and flush to rinse. This non-abrasive cleaner can also be used in the bathtub or on counters.

14. **Clean outdoor furniture** by washing it with this mildew zapping solution: In a spray bottle, mix 1 teaspoon dish detergent, 1 teaspoon borax and 1 quart warm water.

15. **Make your own dishwasher detergent** by mixing 1 tablespoons borax and 1 tablespoons baking soda.

**DEODORIZING**

16. **Minimize odor in your cat's litter box** by mixing a few tablespoons of borax in with the litter.

17. **Clean your garbage disposal** by putting 3 tablespoons of borax down the drain. Let it sit for an hour and flush it with warm water. This will sanitize it, taking care of any smelly bacteria.

18. **Remove mildew and mustiness** from linens by soak them in 2 cups of borax mixed with 2 quarts of water. Let the linens sit for a few hours, then rinse them clean.

19. **Unclog drains** with 1/2 cup of borax followed by 2 cups of boiling water. Let it sit for 15 minutes, then run your water for a few minutes to flush it out.

20. **Remove urine odor from a mattress.** Wet the mattress rub in borax with a damp cloth. Let dry, then vacuum up the remaining residue.

21. **Deodorize and clean your fridge** by washing it with a borax and water solution.

22. **Deodorize your garbage pail** by filling it with borax and water. Let it soak then rinse it out. Sprinkle some borax in the bottom once it's clean. This will keep the bugs away and absorb any odor causing moisture.

**OTHER USES**

23. **Kill weeds** by sprinkling borax where you've seen weeds previously appear. This is useful for weeds that surface in concrete cracks and on walkways, but shouldn't be used in the garden because it will also kill your plants. Sprinkle some borax around the perimeter of the house too and you'll be free from ants and other intruding insects.

24. **Soften your water** when doing laundry by adding borax to the load.

25. **Bring life back to your worn china** by soaking it in a sink full of warm water and a 1/2 cup of borax. Rinse well and wash a second time as usual.