

## Twenty One Inexpensive Household Helpers

Use items most of us have in our homes at all times to clean, freshen, cure, fix, save time and most of all, **save money!**

1. Attach a stick-on air freshener to a ceiling fan blade. Turn the fan on low to circulate the fragrance.
2. To keep cut flowers fresh longer, just mix 2-tablespoons of white vinegar and 2-tablespoons of sugar into the water.
3. Drop two Alka Seltzer tablets in toilet; wait 20 minutes, brush and flush.
4. Microwave a cup of water for two minutes. The steam will make the microwave easy to clean.
5. Put fabric softener sheets in the bottom of garbage cans as a deodorant.
6. Ants, ants, ants everywhere. Well, they are said to never cross a chalk line. So, get your chalk out and draw a line on the floor or wherever ants tend to march – see for yourself.
7. When you get a splinter, reach for the scotch tape before resorting to tweezers or a needle. Simply put the scotch tape over the splinter, and then pull it off. Scotch tape removes most splinters painlessly and easily.
8. For all-over-the house freshness, place a couple of new or used dryer sheets in the vacuum cleaner bag.
9. Use dryer sheets for dusting jobs all over the house.
10. Eliminate water spots on mirrors and fixtures with a swipe of a used dryer sheet, which will have everything shining in no time.
11. When stacking good china for storage, put flattened flat-bottom coffee filter between the plates; they absorb any moisture left on the plates and prevent them from chipping.
12. Coffee filters are good lint-free cleaning cloths. Use them for dusting or cleaning windows.
13. Use coffee filters to keep track of materials such as nails, screws, beads or pins while working on a project.
14. Soak cotton balls in vanilla and put them in a dish in your refrigerator to help absorb odors.
15. Use cotton balls to bait a mousetrap. Mice like to line their nests, so it attracts them to the trap.
16. Soak cotton balls with bleach or other cleansers and stuff them into corners or other hard-to-clean areas. Let them sit for a while, then remove and rinse the area clean.
17. A copper scouring pad in your humidifier will prevent lime buildup.
18. To remove a stain from inside a glass vase, fill it with water and drop in two Alka-Seltzer tablets.
19. To wipe crayon marks off a wall, apply toothpaste and let set about 15 minutes, and wipe off with a damp cloth.
20. Reduce your cooking mess by pouring liquids at the sink and peeling food over the trash can. Smaller messes are always easier to clean than bigger ones.
21. Cut soup, stew and stir-fry ingredients into smaller pieces to reduce cooking time. Keep any extras in the refrigerator to add to other weeknight meals.