



Cost Comparison of Cleaners

Cleaner	Store Bought	Homemade
All-purpose cleaner (32 ounces)	\$1.89-\$3.25	\$.38 (bottle \$.99)
Window cleaner (32 ounces)	\$2.69	\$.04 (bottle \$.99)
Mildew Cleaner (32 ounces)	\$2.89	\$1.09
Laundry detergent	\$.23/load	\$.10/load; soap nuts \$.14/load
Liquid soap (8 ounces)	\$1.49	\$.85 (bottle \$1)

Liquid Soap – Recipe 1

Castile soap is a “generic” term used to describe a type of soap that is made using vegetable oil, typically olive oil, instead of animal fats.

Ingredients:

- ½ cup grated castile soap, firmly packed (about one 4 ounce bar)
- 1 tablespoon vegetable glycerin
- 2 cups water

Procedure:

Combine the water and soap in a pot over low heat. Stir until soap has dissolved completely. Then add the glycerin. Pour into clean containers and close.

The consistency of this recipe may be thicker than you would like for liquid soap. If so, add more water. In the meantime, use it for bubble baths or as part of a natural shampoo.

Liquid Soap – Recipe 2

Ingredients:

- 1 bar of soap, small
- 3 cups water

Procedure:

Grate bar of soap with cheese grater. Pour the water and grated soap into a microwavable container and cook on high for 3 minutes. Remove and stir until all soap bits have melted (put in a bit longer, if needed). Let it cool, then pour into pumps (leftover from store bought liquid soap), and the remainder in any container with a lid. Makes about 24 ounces. (If you don’t have a grater, cut them into the thinnest pieces you can.)

Tip: If you want to make your soap more moisturizing or more liquefied, add 2 teaspoons of glycerin to it. A small bottle can be found at any drugstore for under \$3 and will last you forever!

Powdered Laundry Soap

Ingredients:

- 2 cups finely shredded Fels Napthaor Zote grated soap
- 1 cup washing soda
- 1 cup borax

Procedure:

Combine ingredients, and store in an airtight plastic container. Use 2 tablespoons per laundry load.

Thank you to Jeri Vangilder who developed this handout.

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