



# Bin Inn's Handy Hints

## Epsom Salts

- **CITRUS TREES** - Sprinkle epsom salts around the roots of citrus trees before watering to help promote fruit growth and development.
- **FERNS** - Toss a light sprinkling of epsom salts around ferns after watering to maintain a lush growth. To help stop flowers from falling off their stems, water well and sprinkle epsom salts around the roots.
- **LAUNDRY CARE** - To get the stiffness out of new towels, soak them in cold water with a handful of epsom salts. This helps make towels soft and absorbent, then wash as per usual before using. To help prevent colours from running in new clothes and linen, rinse in cold water with some epsom salts and then wash as per usual with laundry powder.
- **STORAGE CARE** - To help keep moths away from books, clothes and linen, sprinkle some epsom salts in the corners of cupboards, wardrobes or storage areas.
- **SHOE ODOUR** - To help remove odours from shoes, mix two tablespoons of epsom salts and baking soda and sprinkle in each shoe.
- **TILE GROUT CLEANING** - To help clean tile grout, add a little epsom salts to an old wet toothbrush and scrub grout to remove dirt and stains. For white grout, add a little bleach to the water.

## Washing Soda

- **FABRIC SOFTENER** - Try adding a handful of washing soda to your normal wash. Washing soda acts as a natural fabric softener by softening hard water and working with laundry detergents to remove heavy soiling and dirt from clothes, while leaving them soft and fresh.
- **STAIN REMOVER** - To help remove blood stains from clothing, dissolve a handful of washing soda in some hot water, then once dissolved add cold water. Once the solution becomes cold, soak clothing. Always wait for the water to be cold or else hot water may set the blood stains.
- **CONCRETE CLEANER** - Dissolve a handful of washing soda with warm water and some detergent to clean concrete paths and driveways.
- **SILVERWARE CLEANING** - Add one part washing soda to 20 parts hot water in an aluminium pan or dish. Dip the silverware into the pan, then rinse with hot water and dry thoroughly with a soft dry cloth. Do not use on any jewellery.
- **GENERAL CLEANING** - Washing soda is a good heavy duty cleaner for floors, walls and hard surfaces. Dissolve washing soda in water.
- **AUTOMATIC DISHWASH POWDER** - If you have run out of automatic dishwasher powder, try using washing soda instead. Pour into automatic dishwasher dispenser.

**EPSOM  
SALTS  
BAKING SODA  
ROCK SALT OR  
WASHING  
SODA**

## Baking Soda

- **CARPET DEODORISER** - Mix baking soda with a small amount of talcum powder and sprinkle over your carpet before vacuuming.
- **FRIDGE ODOURS** - Pour some baking soda into a small container and place in the fridge. Baking soda will absorb the food smells. Change the container of baking soda regularly for it to act as a fridge deodoriser.
- **BURNT POTS** - Add some baking soda and water to a burnt pot, then boil for a few minutes, this makes the burnt pot easier to clean.
- **BARBECUE CLEANER** - Sprinkle baking soda onto the cold cooking plate, scrub and then rinse clean. This doesn't effect the taste of foods.
- **CLEANING SILVERWARE & BRASS** - Line a basin with aluminium foil and fill with boiling water. Add 2-3 heaped tablespoons of baking soda to the water and place silverware or brass into the basin. Take out the silverware when clean and rinse with warm water and dry thoroughly.
- **SURFACE STAINS** - Make a paste of baking soda and water. With a damp cloth, gently rub the stained surface. Rinse off with a clean damp cloth. For stubborn stains, leave on the area slightly longer.
- **BLOCKED DRAINS** - Pour a handful of baking soda down the blocked drain and follow this with a cup of vinegar. Leave for a few minutes then flush thoroughly with water.

## Rock Salt

- **FISH BAIT** - Rock salt acts as a preservative to help fish bait stay fresh and reduce odour. Rock salt is great for camping and boating where fish bait can not be refrigerated. For each two kilos of fish bait, cover with one kilo of rock salt.
- **BARBECUE CLEANING** - Sprinkle rock salt over barbecue hot plate with the heat on low. Using a fish slice, stir every 5 minutes for 30 minutes. Rinse with cold water after cleaning.
- **WINE STAINS** - A fine white wine is hard to appreciate when it stains your nicest shirt. Immediately pour enough salt directly on the stain to soak up the white wine. Soak the shirt for half an hour in cold water then wash as per usual with laundry powder.
- **SCOURING POWDER** - Use rock salt on a damp sponge for a mild but effective scouring powder for cleaning general household surfaces.
- **KITCHEN CLEANING** - To help clean kitchen cupboards, make a paste of rock salt, baking soda and lemon juice. Use a sponge to apply and then rinse off. This helps remove stains and odours.
- **COFFEE POT STAINS** - To help clean coffee stains off the inside of a glass coffee pot, mix four teaspoons of rock salt, a cup of crushed ice and a tablespoon of water. Gently swirl inside a cold coffee pot until clean, then rinse several times before using.

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