

81 AMAZING HOUSEHOLD USES FOR LEMONS

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THE INCREDIBLE LEMON

This unassuming fruit is really pretty amazing. Lemons or Citrus limon Osbeck is a species of small evergreen tree in the flowering plant family Rutaceae. Originating in Asia, the average lemon contains 5-6% citric acid which gives it a distinctive sour taste.

In addition to serving as a delicious cooking ingredient, this bright yellow fruit has numerous uses around your home. Are you ready to fall (deeper) in love with the lemon?

LAUNDRY

1. Spot treatment

Pour lemon juice on fabric stains followed by salt. Rub the stain and rinse. This works well for underarm stains. Dry in the sun if possible for even more stain-fighting power.

2. Mildew stains

Apply a paste of lemon juice and salt to the stain, then let dry in the sun. Repeat as needed.

3. Grease stains

Mix lemon juice with vinegar and apply to the stain. Let it sit and then rinse.

4. Whiten tennis shoes

Spray lemon juice onto white sneakers then dry them in the sun for whitening and freshening.



5. Sock Whitening

Get grimy white cotton socks white again by boiling them in water with a slice of lemon.

6. Bleach delicate fabrics

Avoid additional bleach stains by swapping ordinary household chlorine bleach with lemon juice, which is milder but no less effective. Soak your delicates in a mixture of lemon juice and baking soda for at least half an hour before washing.

7. Boost laundry detergent

For more powerful cleaning action, pour 1 cup lemon juice into the washer during the wash cycle. The natural bleaching action of the juice will zap stains and remove rust and mineral discolorations from cotton T-shirts and briefs and will leave your clothes smelling fresh.

BEAUTY

8. Freshen your breath

Make an impromptu mouthwash by rinsing with lemon juice straight from the bottle. Swallow for longer-lasting fresh breath. The citric acid in the juice alters the pH level in your mouth, killing bacteria that causes bad breath. Rinse after a few minutes because long-term exposure to the acid in lemons can harm tooth enamel.

9. Treat flaky dandruff

If itchy, scaly dandruff is bothering you, relief may be found in the juicy lemon. Just massage two tablespoons lemon juice into your scalp and rinse with water. Then stir one teaspoon lemon juice into one cup water and rinse your hair with it. Repeat daily until your dandruff disappears.

10. Lighten age spots

No need for expensive creams! Lemon juice will do the trick. To lighten liver spots or freckles, try applying lemon juice directly to the area. Let it sit for 15 minutes and then rinse your skin clean. It's a safe and effective skin-lightening agent.

11. Create blonde highlights

For salon-worthy highlights, add 1/4 cup lemon juice to 3/4 cup water and rinse your hair with the mixture. Then, sit in the sun until your hair dries. To maximize the effect, repeat once daily for up to a week. Don't forget to put on plenty of sunscreen before you sit out in the sun.

12. Clean and whiten nails

Pamper your hands without a manicurist. Add the juice of 1/2 lemon to 1 cup warm water and soak your fingertips in the mixture for 5 minutes. After pushing back the cuticles, rub some lemon peel back and forth against the nail.

13. Brightening moisturizer:

A few drops of lemon juice mixed with coconut oil and applied as a moisturizer will help to hydrate and brighten your skin.

14. Make Your Hair Shine

After a shampoo, rinse your hair with lemon juice to make it shine. Mix the strained juice of a lemon in an eight-ounce glass of warm water.

15. Emergency Deodorant

Caught smelling less-than-fresh, with no deodorant around to save the day? Cut a lemon in half (or snag a wedge from your drinking glass) and rub it under your arms. The citric acid in lemon juice will reportedly kill odor-causing bacteria. In fact, you could use this trick to ditch conventional deodorants

FIRST AID/HEALTH

16. Lemon water:

Lemon water provides you with vitamin C and potassium while helping with digestion and immune system health.

17. Sore throat:

Lemon is both anti-inflammatory and antibacterial. Gargling with lemon water may soothe a sore throat while consuming lemon water provides vitamin C for your immune system.

18. Canker sores:

Lemon juice has antifungal and antibacterial properties, so gargling with a cup of hot lemon water may help speed the healing of canker sores.

19. Skin rashes:

Soak a cotton ball in lemon juice and apply it to rashes, such as poison ivy, for relief.

20. Insect bites:

Lemon juice can help to relieve the swelling and itching of insect bites.

21. Coughs:

Sip hot lemon water with honey to help reduce mucous buildup and relieve coughs.

22. Disinfect cuts and scrapes

Stop bleeding and disinfect minor cuts and scrapes by pouring a few drops of lemon juice directly on the cut. You can also apply the juice with a cotton ball and hold firmly in place for one minute.

23. Soothe poison ivy rash

You won't need an ocean of calamine lotion the next time poison ivy comes a-creeping. Just apply lemon juice directly to the affected area to soothe itching and alleviate the rash.

24. Relieve rough hands and sore feet

Rinse your extremities in a mixture of equal parts lemon juice and water, then massage with olive oil and dab dry with a soft cloth.

25. Remove warts

You've tried countless remedies to banish warts and nothing seems to work. Next time, apply a dab of lemon juice directly to the wart using a cotton swab. Repeat for several days until the acids in the lemon juice dissolve the wart completely.

26. Soften dry, scaly elbows

Itchy elbows are bad enough, but they look terrible too. For better looking (and feeling) elbows, mix baking soda and lemon juice to make an abrasive paste, then rub it into your elbows for a soothing, smoothing, and exfoliating treatment.

27. Cleanse your face

Zap acne naturally by dabbing lemon juice on blackheads to draw them out during the day. You can also wash your face with lemon juice for a natural cleanse and exfoliation. Your skin should improve after several days of treatment.

28. Soothe an Upset Stomach

Suck on a lemon to settle an upset stomach.

29. Hangover Help

The next time you're groaning in pain the morning after enjoying just a tad too much alcohol, try drinking a little lemon juice squeezed into warm water or tea. Not only does it help you re-hydrate, but the lemon juice can reportedly help balance the pH levels in your body and replace the vitamin C

KITCHEN/DINING ROOM

30. Chinaware Shine

Use one part lemon juice and two parts salt to scour chinaware to its original luster.

31. Make Your Faucet Shine

Rub kitchen and bathroom faucets with lemon peel. Wash and dry with a soft cloth to shine and remove spots.

32. Soap Film Remover

Fresh lemon juice in rinse water removes soap film from interiors of ovens and refrigerators.

33. Clean and Deodorize Kitchen Wood

To get odors out of wooden rolling pins, bowls, or cutting boards, rub with a piece of lemon. Don't rinse: The wood will absorb the lemon juice.

34. Hands:

Add lemon juice while washing your hands with soap to help remove stubborn odors like garlic. If you need more cleaning power, add a teaspoon or so of salt and rub in, as well. This works well to remove berry stains, too!

35. Trash cans:

A few lemon peels added to your garbage can will help with odors.

36. Get rid of tough stains on marble

You probably think of marble as stone, but it is really petrified calcium (also known as old seashells). That explains why it is so porous and easily stained and damaged. Those stains can be hard to remove. If washing won't remove a stubborn stain, try this: Cut a lemon in half, dip the exposed flesh into some table salt, and rub it vigorously on the stain. But do this only as a last resort; acid can damage marble. Rinse well.

37. Clean tarnished brass

Say good-bye to tarnish on brass, copper, or stainless steel. Make a paste of lemon juice and salt (or substitute baking soda or cream of tartar for the salt) and coat the affected area. Let it stay on for 5 minutes. Then wash in warm water, rinse, and polish dry. Use the same mixture to clean metal kitchen sinks too. Apply the paste, scrub gently, and rinse.

38. Polish chrome

Get rid of mineral deposits and polish chrome faucets and other tarnished chrome. Simply rub lemon rind over the chrome and watch it shine! Rinse well and dry with a soft cloth.

39. Keep insects out of the kitchen

You don't need insecticides or ant traps to ant-proof your kitchen. Just give it the lemon treatment. First squirt some lemon juice on door thresholds and windowsills. Then squeeze lemon juice into any holes or cracks where the ants are getting in. Finally, scatter small slices of lemon peel around the outdoor entrance. The ants will get the message that they aren't welcome. Lemons are also effective against roaches and fleas: Simply mix the juice of 4 lemons (along with the rinds) with 1/2 gallon (2 liters) water and wash your floors with it; then watch the fleas and roaches flee. They hate the smell.

40. Clean your microwave

Is the inside of your microwave caked with bits of hardened food? You can give it a good cleaning without scratching the surface with harsh cleansers or using a lot of elbow grease. Just mix 3 tablespoons lemon juice into 1 1/2 cups water in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on High for 5-10 minutes, allowing the steam to condense on the inside walls and ceiling of the oven. Then just wipe away the softened food with a dishrag.

41. Deodorize your garbage disposal

If your garbage disposal is beginning to make your sink smell yucky, here's an easy way to deodorize it: Save leftover lemon and orange peels and toss them down the drain. To keep it smelling fresh, repeat once every month. Alternatively, freeze some lemon juice or slices with water or vinegar (for an extra cleaning boost) in an ice cube tray and toss a few down the garbage disposal every few days or once a week.

42. Freshen the fridge

Remove refrigerator odors with ease. Dab lemon juice on a cotton ball or sponge and leave it in the fridge for several hours. Make sure to toss out any malodorous items that might be causing the bad smell. Or Soak a sponge in lemon juice and let it sit in your fridge for a few hours; it works better than baking soda to remove odors.

43. Brighten dull aluminum

Make those dull pots and pans sparkle, inside and out. Just rub the cut side of half a lemon all over them and buff with a soft cloth. Refresh cutting boards

No wonder your kitchen cutting board smells! After all, you use it to chop onions, crush garlic, cut raw and cooked meat and chicken, and pre-prepare fish. To get rid of the smell and help sanitize the cutting board, rub it all over with the cut side of half a lemon or wash it in undiluted juice straight from the bottle. You can add some salt to scrub with if the stains are particularly tough.

44. Hard water stains:

Rub a cut lemon on your faucets and shower fixtures. It will remove hard water stains and leave fixtures shiny.

45. Cheese graters:

Rub half a lemon over your graters to remove grease without ruining your sponge.

46. Dish soap booster:

A teaspoon of lemon juice added to dish soap helps cut through grease and increases effectiveness.

47. Plastic containers:

I recommend glass containers to store your food, but if you have plastic containers with food stains, rubbing them with lemon juice and letting them dry in the sun will help remove the stains.

48. Drains:

To unclog a drain, pour a pot of boiling water down the drain followed by half a box of baking soda and 8-12 ounces of lemon juice. The lemon juice and baking soda will react, creating a foam. Follow this up with another pot of boiling water to flush away the clog.

49. Coffee maker:

Run a cycle with plain water, then add a mixture of lemon juice and water to the water tank. Let it sit then run the cycle through. Repeat this process once more, then run another plain water cycle (you'll want to wash the coffee pot and filter afterward to remove any lemon taste).

FOOD

50. Keep guacamole green

You've been making guacamole all day long for the big party, and you don't want it to turn brown on top before the guests arrive. The solution: Sprinkle a liberal amount of fresh lemon juice over it and it will stay fresh and green. The flavor of the lemon juice is a natural complement to the avocados in the guacamole. Make the fruit salad hours in advance too. Just squeeze some lemon juice onto the apple slices, and they'll stay snowy white.

51. Make soggy lettuce crisp

Don't toss that soggy lettuce into the garbage. With the help of a little lemon juice you can toss it in a salad instead. Add the juice of half a lemon to a bowl of cold water. Then put the soggy lettuce in it and refrigerate for 1 hour. Make sure to dry the leaves completely before putting them into salads or sandwiches.

52. Keep rice from sticking

To keep your rice from sticking together in a gloppy mass, add a spoonful of lemon juice to the boiling water when cooking. When the rice is done, let it cool for a few minutes, then fluff with a fork before serving.

53. Prevent potatoes from turning brown

Potatoes and cauliflower tend to turn brown when boiling, especially when you're having company for dinner. You can make sure the white vegetables stay white by squeezing a teaspoon of fresh lemon juice into the cooking water.

54. Ice cubes:

Add lemon slices to your ice cube trays to add some flavor to your beverages.

55. Marinade:

Combine lemon juice with your favorite oils and herbs to marinate meats. The acidic lemon juice helps break down the meat so the flavor of the marinade can infuse it.

56. Buttermilk substitute:

Two tablespoons of lemon juice added to a cup of milk, and left to sit for 15 minutes, makes a fine substitute for buttermilk in recipes.

57. Sour cream substitute:

For a sour cream alternative, add lemon juice to whipped cream and let it sit for 30 minutes.

HOUSEHOLD

58. All-purpose cleaner:

Combine water, baking soda, vinegar, lemon, and lemon essential oil for a wonderful kitchen or bathroom cleaner.

59. Hardwood floors:

Combine lemon and vinegar to make a grime-fighting non-toxic floor cleaner.

60. Furniture polish:

Combine lemon oil, lemon juice, and olive or jojoba oil to make a homemade furniture polish. Simply buff with a cloth. Or mix one part lemon juice and two parts olive oil.

61. Windows:

Lemon juice cuts through grease and grime on windows and glass. Try combining it with cornstarch, vinegar, and water for a phenomenal window cleaner.

62. Rust Remover

Mix one tablespoon of lemon juice with two tablespoons of salt to make a rust-removing scrub.

63. Remove scratches on furniture

Mix equal parts of lemon juice and salad oil and rub it on the scratches with a soft cloth.

ODOR REMOVAL/PREVENTION

64. Deodorize a humidifier

When your humidifier starts to smell funky, deodorize it with ease: Just pour 3 or 4 teaspoons lemon juice into the water. It will not only remove the off odor but will replace it with a lemon-fresh fragrance. Repeat every couple of weeks to keep the odor from returning.

65. Make a room scent/humidifier

Freshen and moisturize the air in your home on dry winter days. Make your own room scent that also doubles as a humidifier. If you have a wood-burning stove, place an enameled cast-iron pot or bowl on top, fill with water, and add lemon (and/or orange) peels, cinnamon sticks, cloves, and apple skins. No wood-burning stove? Use your stovetop instead and just simmer the water periodically.

66. Room freshener:

Simmer a pot of water and add lemon peels, cloves, and cinnamon sticks.

67. Eliminate fireplace odor

There's nothing cozier on a cold winter night than a warm fire burning in the fireplace — unless the fire happens to smell horrible. Next time you have a fire that sends a stench into the room, try throwing a few lemon peels into the flames. Or simply burn some lemon peels along with your firewood as a preventive measure.

68. Vacuum Room Deodorizer

Before you start to vacuum, put a few drops of lemon juice in the dust bag. It will make the house smell fresh.

PETS/ANIMALS

69. Dog and cat repellent:

If you want to keep neighborhood dogs and cats out of your yard, sprinkle the perimeter with coffee grounds and lemon peels. Most dogs and cats dislike the scents and will go elsewhere.

70. Stains on your pet's fur:

To remove pink or red-colored stains from around your pet's eyes or mouth, apply a paste of baking soda and lemon juice and rub into the fur. Let it sit for about 10 minutes then rinse off. Be careful not to get the mixture into your pet's eyes.

71. Cat box:

Place lemon slices in a bowl near your cat box to help freshen the air.

72. Keep Garden Critters Away

Save lemon and orange rinds to deter squirrels and cats from digging in the garden. Store rinds in the freezer during the winter, and then bury them just under the surface of the garden periodically throughout the spring and summer.

CLOSET

73. Leather shoe polish:

Combine one-part lemon juice with two parts of olive oil, then apply to leather shoes. Let it sit for 10-15 minutes, then buff with cloth.

74. Jewelry sanitizer:

Add one tablespoon of lemon juice to 1.5 cups of water. Use the solution to sanitize earrings and other jewelry, but do not use it on pearls or gold.

GARAGE/HOME IMPROVEMENT

75. Hardened paintbrushes:

Bring lemon juice with a splash of water to a boil, then add in hardened paintbrushes. Let sit for 15 minutes, then wash with soap and water. The bristles will become soft again once they dry.

76. Remove dried paint from glass:

Apply hot lemon juice with a soft cloth. Leave until nearly dry, and then wipe off.

77. Keep Bugs Out of Paint

A few drops of lemon juice in outdoor house-paint will keep insects away while you are painting and until the paint dries.

OUTSIDE

78. Kill weeds:

Spray weeds with lemon juice for a non-toxic weed killer.

BATHROOM

79. Toilet:

Adding half a cup of lemon juice to your toilet, then letting it sit prior to scrubbing, will help remove stains. Add half a cup of borax for stubborn stains.

80. Shower doors:

Dip the cut half of a lemon in baking soda, then rub into on the glass to remove water stains. Rinse and towel dry.

FOR FUN

81. Invisible ink:

Dip a cotton swab into lemon juice and write a message on a piece of white paper. After it dries, hold it up to a lamp or light bulb to see your hidden message.