

# DIY All-Purpose Cleaner

## Ingredients:

- 8 ounces water (preferably distilled)
- 4 ounces white vinegar
- 3 ounces 90% isopropyl alcohol or regular grain alcohol (Vodka)
- 1 tsp. liquid castile soap (i.e., Dr. Bronner's, Dr. Woods, Natural Way)
- 10-12 drops of Tea Tree Oil
- 10-12 drops of Lemon or Lime Essential Oil
- 10-12 drops of Lemongrass

## Utensils:

- Glass bottle with a nozzle
- Funnel (optional)
- Jars or bowls for mixing
- Measuring cups and spoons

## Instructions:

1. Add the essential oils to the alcohol; then slowly add the vinegar.
2. Gently mix the castile soap into the water and add this slowly to the alcohol and vinegar mixture.
3. Mix gently.
4. Store in a glass bottle.

**Tip:** You can play around with aromas by adding different kinds of citrus blends and other antibacterial essential oils (the Thieves blend from Young Living is an excellent example). Try if possible to store your cleaner in a glass spray bottle, as essential oils can deteriorate plastics, and the oils themselves will lose their potency. Shake the bottle before each use.

**Warning:** If you have granite countertops leave out the vinegar and only use grain alcohol or add more water and an additional ½ teaspoon of castile soap, as the vinegar can cause etching or pitting. I store my cleaner in the refrigerator to preserve it, but if stored at room temperature it's recommended that you make a new cleaner every couple of weeks. If grain alcohol is used the shelf life is considerably longer, however, if like me purchasing Vodka makes you physically ill, then make new cleaner frequently or store it in the fridge.

## Why make your own house cleaner?

It saves money, takes a few minutes to make and in my opinion works better. It's free of the harsh chemicals used in conventional cleaners and therefore safe and non-toxic, and if only vinegar is added, even young children can use it.