

HOME HACKS

SURPRISING
USES FOR
**EVERYDAY
ITEMS**


**SIMPLE
SOLUTIONS TO
FIGHT CLUTTER
& SAVE TIME**

**MONEY-SAVING TIPS,
DIY CLEANING PRODUCTS
& ORGANIZING TOOLS FOR
EVERY ROOM IN THE HOUSE!**

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AMI SPECIALS

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Green Cleaning

PANTRY INGREDIENTS AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
FIND SURPRISING USES.

Natural & Eco-Friendly Cleaners

Chemicals don't necessarily equate to cleanliness. In fact, some of the greatest solvents in your home are in your pantry right now. Here's a rundown of the best multipurpose organic cleansers for your entire home.

TEA TREE OIL

This potent botanical contains natural antibacterial properties and is an impressive germ fighter, insect repellent and antiseptic. The oil can be used as an acne fighter, mouthwash and hand sanitizer, as well as in household cleaning. Just remember never to swallow it and to carefully measure and dilute the powerful tincture.





LEMON

High in citric acid, this sour fruit has a low pH, so you're not likely to damage wood furniture, clothing or other delicate items when using it or its juices as part of a cleaning routine. When lemon is mixed with alkaline compounds, its effectiveness increases exponentially.

BAKING SODA

Also known as sodium bicarbonate, baking soda is naturally pH neutral in composition — meaning that it can clean up after both bases and acids — and it absorbs and eliminates odors of all types. When combined with white vinegar, the slightly abrasive powder is also an effective stain remover.



WHITE VINEGAR

Don't confuse this cheap stuff with the nice balsamic variety you have in your cupboard! White vinegar is highly acidic, making it ideal for dissolving soap scum and other sticky build-ups. Vinegar can be used full strength, diluted or combined with other agents, but be sure not to use it on delicate natural materials such as marble and granite.

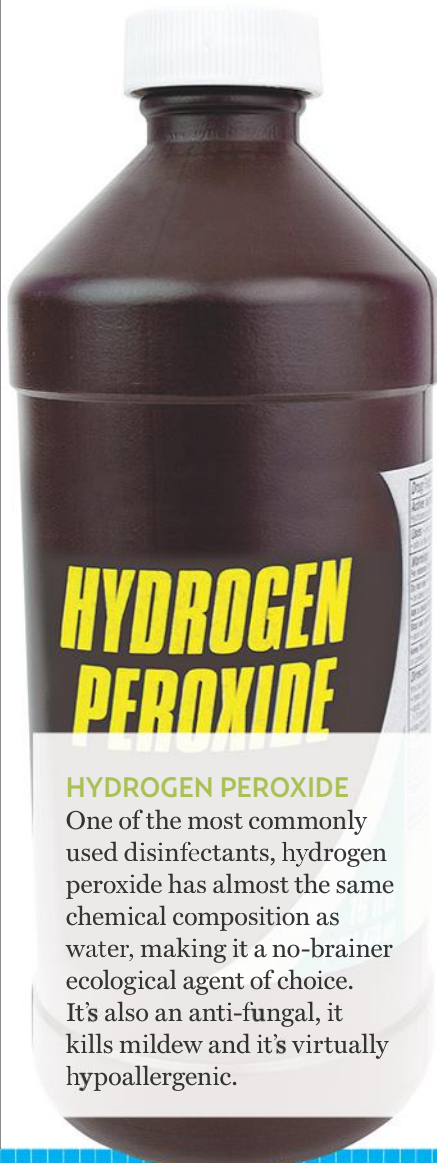


OLIVE OIL

As an organic lubricant, olive oil works to polish stainless steel and wood furniture, protect wicker furniture, remove paint and sticker adhesive, condition leather and clean cast-iron cookware. Be sure to save the extra-virgin type for your salads, though.

Chemical Reactions

Sometimes lemon juice and baking soda just don't cut it. When faced with a challenge, send in these all-purpose cleaners to keep the house spick and span.



HYDROGEN PEROXIDE

One of the most commonly used disinfectants, hydrogen peroxide has almost the same chemical composition as water, making it a no-brainer ecological agent of choice. It's also an anti-fungal, it kills mildew and it's virtually hypoallergenic.



DRYER SHEETS

Since dryer sheets are designed to be anti-static, they are the perfect choice for dusting electronically charged devices such as TVs and computer monitors. Their pleasant scent is good for freshening drawers — or your stinky car — and their durability makes them ideal for tougher jobs like buffing chrome.

BORAX

This laundry booster and disinfectant (also a key ingredient for making kid-favorite slime!) has a high pH, making it an effective supporting player as a water neutralizer when using bleach — and also a powerful buffering agent for other cleansers.



BAR KEEPERS FRIEND

First sold in 1882, this powder cleanser contains oxalic acid, which is excellent for removing rust stains and other mineral deposits from metal cookware, utensils and sinks. Additionally, Bar Keepers Friend has been known to erase scratches from dishes and bowls — even cars.



MAGIC ERASER

A product from the Mr. Clean brand, the Magic Eraser enjoys a cult following for its uncanny ability to remove even the deepest stains. Made from melamine foam, an effective, superfine abrasive cleaner, the pads loosen and lift stains and grime off surfaces like nothing else.



Recycle Up

Holey socks, threadbare linens and worn-down bristles may mean items are no longer fit for their original purpose — but they can still be used to clean the good stuff.

WASHCLOTHS

Because they deposit fewer trace particles than paper towels, these old shower staples leave streak-free surfaces on mirrors, windows and other shiny places.



PILLOWCASES

Old bedding is ideal for cleaning ceiling fan blades without getting dust all over the place.

SOCKS

Use them as dusting gloves or fit around a Swiffer handle to clean walls and floors.



TOOTHBRUSHES

The bristles get into the deepest nooks and crannies and can be used for polishing everything from grout to fine jewelry.





Kitchen



TRULY, THE KITCHEN IS THE HEART OF EVERY HOME — AND WITH FAMILY MEMBERS CONSTANTLY TRAIPSING THROUGH, IT'S BOUND TO BE ONE OF THE DIRTIEST SPACES, TOO. HERE'S HOW TO MITIGATE THE MESS.



T USE LEMONS TO CLEAN

your sink's garbage disposal unit. Cut up a lemon or two — it doesn't need to be at peak freshness. First, squeeze a few drops of juice down the disposal opening, let sit for a few minutes and flush with water. Then turn on the disposal and throw the lemon chunks down the chute. The juice and rind clean the blades while refreshing the entire unit.



2 UNCLOG A SINK USING VINEGAR and baking soda. Start by pouring a pot of boiling water down the drain. Follow with about half a cup of baking soda and let it sit for a few minutes before adding a cup of vinegar and one more cup of hot water on top of the baking soda. If you have a drain plug, use it, otherwise let everything sit for no more than 10 minutes. Flush with more hot water.





3 DEEP CLEAN AND DEODORIZE your dishwasher in a few easy steps. First, remove any food particles or debris that may be clogging the drain. Then fill a bowl with white vinegar, leave it on the top rack and start the machine on the hottest wash cycle. After that's done, sprinkle a few tablespoons of baking soda around the bottom of the dishwasher and run another short hot water cycle.



4 USE NEWSPAPERS TO ABATE

wet garbage spills. Simply layer a few sections of pages in your trash bin before adding the garbage bag. The newspaper will sop up any potential leaks and make cleanup much easier (and drier!).



5 WANT A CLEAN BLENDER?

Fill it halfway with water, then add a few drops of dish soap and half a lemon, coarsely chopped. Turn on the blender for a minute or so and dump out the contents. Be sure to rinse thoroughly. The carafe and blades will be clean, refreshed and stain-free.



6 IF YOU DON'T want to spare any precious drops of good olive oil for polishing, use baby oil instead. The silky lubricant polishes stainless steel like a charm when a few drops are added to a clean washcloth or paper towel, leaving gleaming, streak-free surfaces with no residue behind.







7 TO REFRESH A WOODEN CUTTING board, first sprinkle it with coarse or kosher salt, then scour the surface using the cut side of half a lemon as if it were a brush, gently squeezing some juice out as you go. Let the board sit for about 5 minutes, then scrape off the dirty liquid. Give the surface a quick rinse and wipe with a clean, wet sponge, then let dry.



8 REFRESH your coffee maker by adding a 1:1 solution of white vinegar and water to the water reservoir and running a half cycle as if you were making coffee. Wait one hour, then finish the cycle, dump the vinegar water and wash the coffee carafe and basket. Last, run two cycles of plain water to get rid of any vinegar residue and lime-scale buildup.



10 **OUT OF STEEL-WOOL PADS?** Crush up aluminum foil into a ball and scrub off baked-on food particle stains from pans with hot dish water and soap.



9 CLEAN A MICROWAVE

easily with the power of steam. Start by placing a bowl filled with 2 cups of water — with 2 tablespoons of vinegar mixed in — inside the microwave. Float a toothpick on the water to keep it from boiling over the edge. Microwave on high for 5 minutes, then let the bowl sit inside for 2 to 3 more minutes to allow the steam to loosen up food grime. Carefully remove the hot bowl and use a clean, wet sponge to wipe the inside of the microwave of any debris.



11 INHIBIT

tarnish by giving silverware a protective coating of olive oil. Simply use a soft cloth to rub your flatware with a little bit of oil — and you're good to go.





12 **REVIVE SMELLY** wooden spoons simply by placing them in boiling water for a few minutes, then extracting them and letting them sun- or air-dry. They'll smell like new.



13 IF YOU DON'T have a giant lid or run out of plastic wrap, use a clean shower cap — either a sturdy one or the flimsier kind they leave in hotel rooms — to cover a large bowl and keep it pest-free while dining al fresco.



14 UTILIZE OLD magazine holders (set on their sides, opening facing the door) or other cheap stackable wire shelves to help create a shelving system in your freezer.



15 KEEP YOUR refrigerator organized by using small, modular baskets to keep like items together inside. No more knocking over containers as you dig past groceries to reach a product in the back of the fridge!





16 CLEAN THE blades of your coffee grinder by tossing in a few pieces of stale bread and running the machine for a few bursts. The hard-to-remove coffee grounds will stick to the bread. Toss the bread crumbs.





17 **CAST-IRON SKILLETS** are wonderful to cook with but hard to clean, since you can't apply soap. After each use, dump a few tablespoons of coarse or kosher salt into the pan and scrub off any food residue. Rinse with hot water and season the pan with a little cooking oil dabbed on a paper towel.



18 **HAVE CAKED-ON** food all over your stovetop burners? Forget scrubbing! Simply place dirty burners in large zip-top bags with about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup ammonia and leave on a cookie sheet overnight in a ventilated area (or outside, if possible). It's normal to see condensation in the bags; the fumes act as the cleaning agent. The next day, simply rinse and wipe the burners.



19 TO PREVENT KNIVES from dulling, store them flipped around, with the blunt edge resting on the wood and the sharp edge facing backward. Gravity won't harm them!



20 IN A PINCH, dryer sheets can be tasked with removing baked-on food particles. Simply put one in a dirty pan or oven dish, add warm water and let it sit for a few minutes before rinsing off the formerly stuck-on grime.

Bathroom

THE MOST FREQUENTLY USED ROOM IN THE HOME ALSO HAS THE MOST POTENTIAL FOR UNPLEASANT ODORS, MOLD AND DEEP-SET STAINS, DUE TO ITS COMBINATION OF TRAPPED HEAT, MOISTURE AND POOR AIR CIRCULATION. THESE TIPS AND TRICKS WILL HELP COMBAT THAT!





21 **YOU BRUSH YOUR TEETH** multiple times daily, but when was the last time you cleaned your toothbrush? Add eight or so drops of tea tree oil to a mason jar or glass filled with 8 ounces of water. Submerge the bristles in the liquid for about 15 minutes and rinse. Make a habit of doing this weekly!





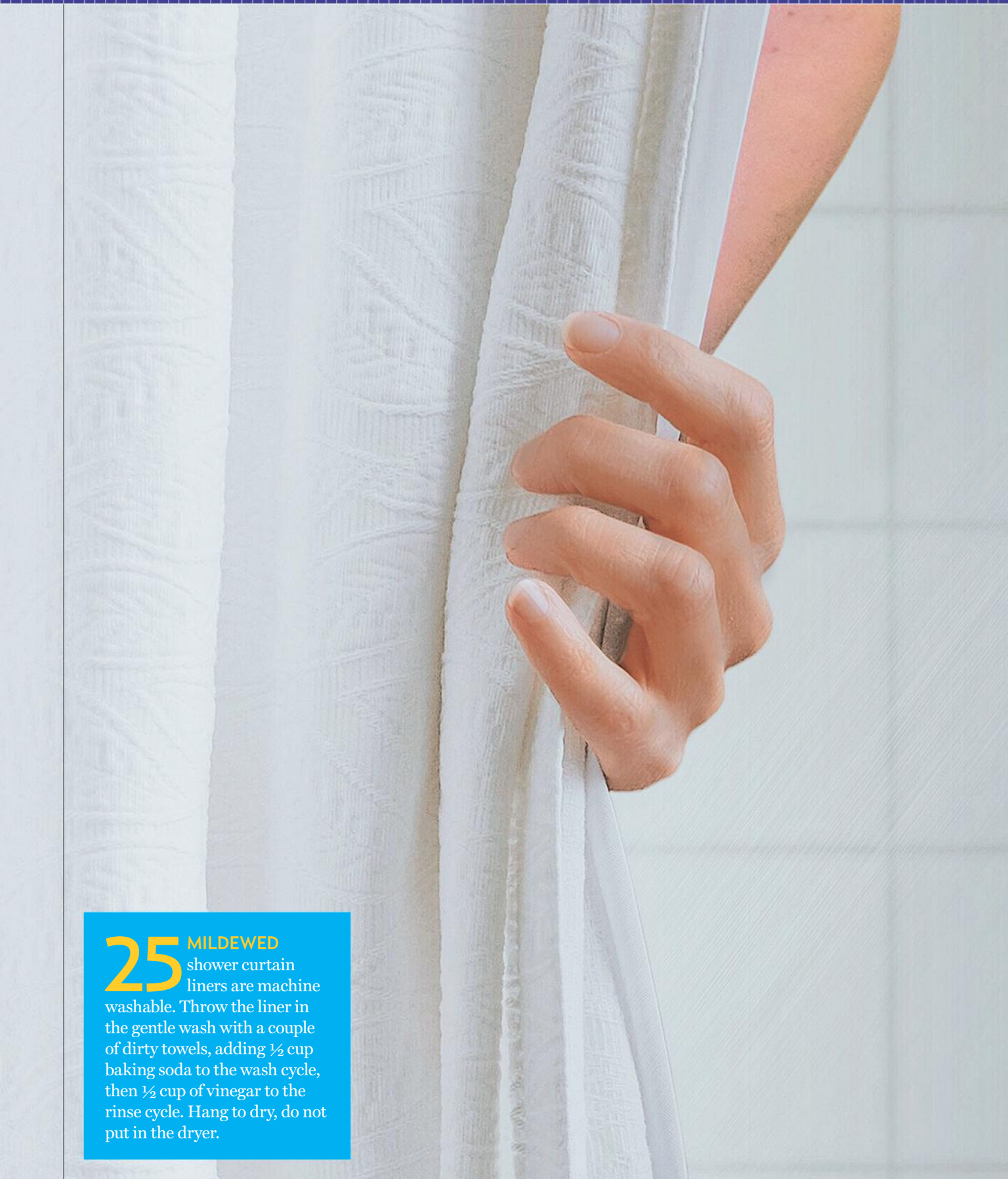
22 **SHOWERHEADS** are plagued by unhealthy microorganisms and mineral buildup. Rubber band or tape a plastic bag filled with vinegar over your showerhead overnight. Remove the bag carefully the next day and run the water to clear out any remaining vinegar.



23 **CREATE CHEAP** shelves for towels and toiletries out of woven baskets by hanging them sideways and anchoring them to the wall.

24 **TO SANITIZE**
the narrow area
between the top of
the toilet bowl and the bottom
of the tank, wrap an antibacte-
rial wipe around a flathead
screwdriver and run it along
the crevice until it's clean. You
wouldn't imagine the gunk!





25 **MILDEWED** shower curtain liners are machine washable. Throw the liner in the gentle wash with a couple of dirty towels, adding $\frac{1}{2}$ cup baking soda to the wash cycle, then $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of vinegar to the rinse cycle. Hang to dry, do not put in the dryer.

26 DEEP CLEAN HAIRBRUSHES by soaking them in a warm-water bath with a few drops of Dawn dish soap (after you've removed excess hair with scissors or a toothpick). After five to seven minutes of soaking, use an old toothbrush to clean around the bristles. Rinse and air dry.



27 ADMIT IT, MAGAZINE RACKS make sense in the bathroom. Get yourself a cute but thrifty variety from a big box or thrift store and catch up on some light reading instead of contaminating your smartphone with dirty hands!



28 DRYER SHEETS get rid of soap scum on shower walls and doors. Sprinkle a little water on a sheet — even one that's been through the dryer — and go to town! They also work on mineral deposits on faucets and other bathroom fixtures.



29 USE ALKA-SELTZER

and vinegar to unclog a shower drain. Start by removing the drain cover, then crumble two Alka-Seltzer tablets into a few smaller pieces and drop them down the drain. Immediately pour a cup of vinegar into drain and allow it all to bubble up for about 10 minutes. Flush the drain with either superhot water from the tap or a kettleful of boiling water. If the clog is severe, use four tablets.



30 **FOR A SHINY**
bathtub, combine one part Dawn dish soap to one part vinegar in a dish wand and seal it tightly. Run the water in the shower to get tub slightly wet then scrub away. The mixture cuts right through soap scum, leaving a squeaky-clean feel!





31 **COOKING OIL** sprays are an effective tool for removing soap scum. Simply spray the dirty area and let it sit for 10 minutes or so before rinsing with cold water.





32 SHAVING CREAM is a workable mirror cleaner and also acts as a mighty defogger. Spray a little bit of shaving cream — not gel — on the mirror and wipe off with a clean towel.



33 DON'T FORGET exhaust fans! Clean them with a vacuum cleaner attachment to pull away dust and, for bonus points, remove the grating and spray down with a vinegar-and-water solution to get rid of any mold.



34 ORGANIZE AND maximize your under-sink space with stackable baskets, wire shelves or a lazy Susan. You'll never lose another nail polish bottle again.

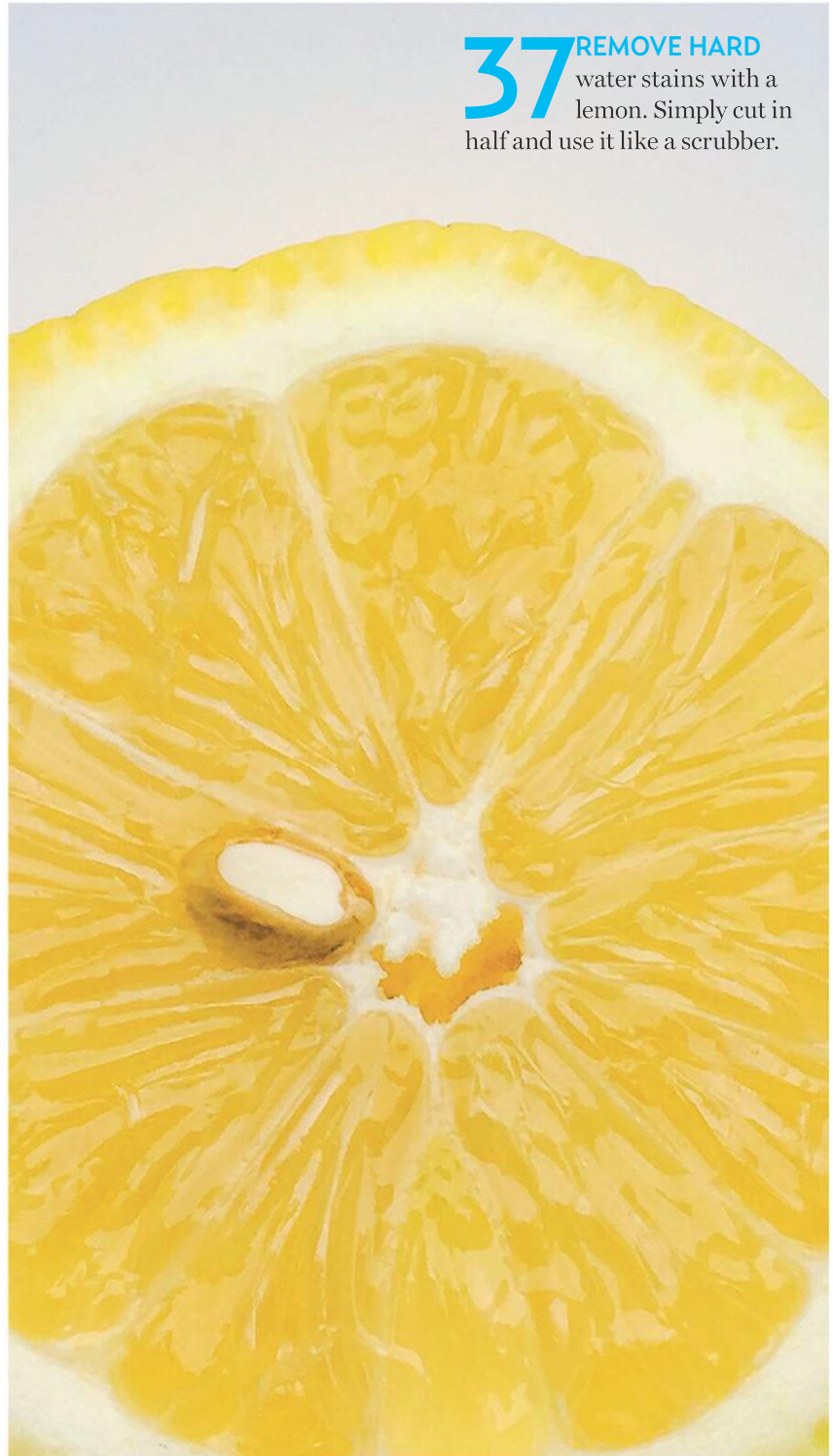


35 REMOVE MOLD with undiluted vinegar in a spray bottle by saturating the affected area and letting it steep for an hour. Wipe the surface with a moist clean paper towel and dry. Just be sure to cover your face and hands when dealing with mold.



36 THE ONLY THING FILTHIER

than a dirty toilet bowl is the brush used to clean it, especially if you return it to its holder wet. Let your toilet brush dry between uses by leaving it wedged under the toilet seat with the head over the bowl for a bit — be sure to flush the water and let it rinse the brush first, and sprinkle the head with bleach, hydrogen peroxide or a fragrant cleaner like Pine-Sol for an extra bit of sanitation.



37 REMOVE HARD water stains with a lemon. Simply cut in half and use it like a scrubber.

38 CREAM OF TARTAR is another secret pantry staple that multitasks like a charm. When formed into a paste (with equal parts vinegar, lemon juice or water) it makes an excellent grout and porcelain whitener.



39 **WHITEN A PORCELAIN SINK** with a one-two punch of baking soda and hydrogen peroxide. Be sure to wet down the sink before starting, then shake some baking soda onto a moist sponge and scrub the entire surface with it. Follow by saturating the sponge with hydrogen peroxide and rubbing it all over the sink. Let that sit for about 20 minutes. Rinse the sink, and dry with a washcloth. If any stains remain, repeat the cycle.

Living Room

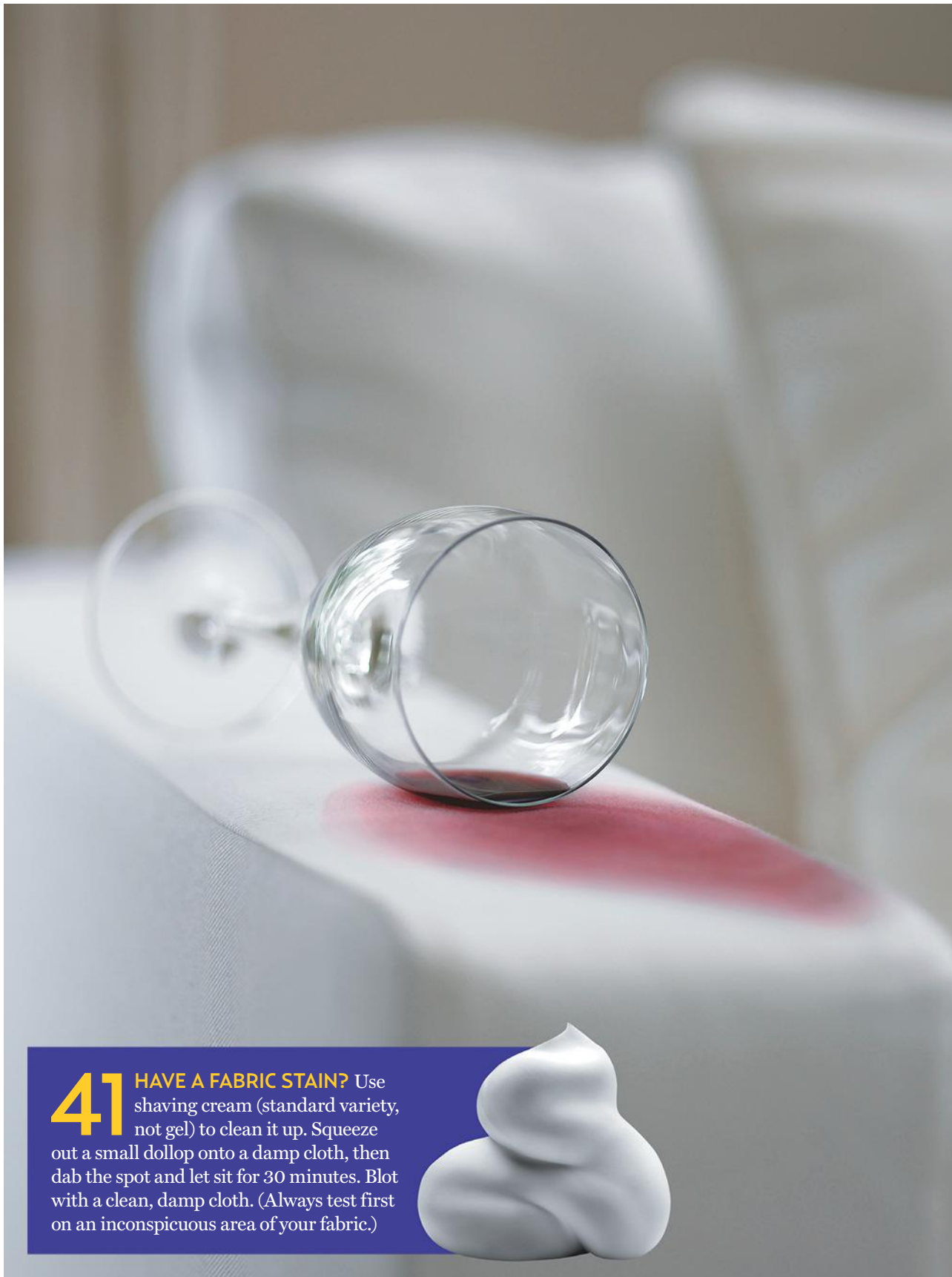
THE LIVING ROOM IS THE SPACE WHERE WE ENTERTAIN GUESTS, GATHER AS FAMILIES TO WATCH MOVIES OR PLAY GAMES, OR HUNKER DOWN TO READ A GOOD BOOK. WITH ALL THAT ACTION, IT'S A CHALLENGE TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND FUNCTIONALITY, BUT ARMED WITH THESE TIPS, IT'LL BE A BREEZE.





om

40 **KIDS LEAVE** grease marks on walls? Remove them by carefully rubbing the area with white chalk, then wiping off with a moist towel.



41 **HAVE A FABRIC STAIN?** Use shaving cream (standard variety, not gel) to clean it up. Squeeze out a small dollop onto a damp cloth, then dab the spot and let sit for 30 minutes. Blot with a clean, damp cloth. (Always test first on an inconspicuous area of your fabric.)



42 **USE A PILLOWCASE**

to dust ceiling fan blades. Fit the pillowcase over each blade and dust outward. Not only does this effectively remove dust, it also traps it before it makes you sneeze.



43 **DON'T FORGET** to clean frequently used remotes and video game controllers with rubbing alcohol or antibacterial spray. Splash a little onto a clean, dry cloth or paper towel, and be sure to get around all the buttons and knobs with a cotton swab.



44 **THIN PAPER COFFEE** filters are ideal for dusting television screens and monitors, since they pick up fine dust particles so well. Continue to use them throughout the living room, with or without a spritz of dusting spray.



45 **BUY AN ELEGANT** metal, enamel, wooden or ceramic tray, then place it prominently on your coffee table to act as a catch-all for small items like remote controls and smartphones, while complementing the room's decor.

46 **WANT TO HIDE** kids' toys and other clutter quickly? Use an attractive fabric tablecloth to cover a coffee or end table, hiding all the objects underneath. (Fold the cloth in half if it's a small table.)





47 MIRRORS ARE the best friends of small accommodations. Placed strategically, they can add light to any room while also giving the impression of a larger space.



48 ERADICATE PET

hair from carpets with a squeegee. Simply run the tool along the fabric; the friction causes animal fur to clump up and away from rugs.



49 BUY CHEAP

ottomans with removable tops for additional space to store blankets, board games and last-minute odds and ends for when unexpected company arrives. Once there, your pals can use the ottomans as extra seating.







50 ADD A TABLESPOON of cornstarch to a spray bottle containing a solution of $\frac{1}{4}$ cup white vinegar, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup rubbing alcohol and 2 cups warm water, and use it to clean windows. The result is some of the shiniest, streak-free windows and mirrors imaginable.



51 **SPRINKLE SOME** baking soda on a carpet a few minutes before vacuuming to eliminate and absorb odors.



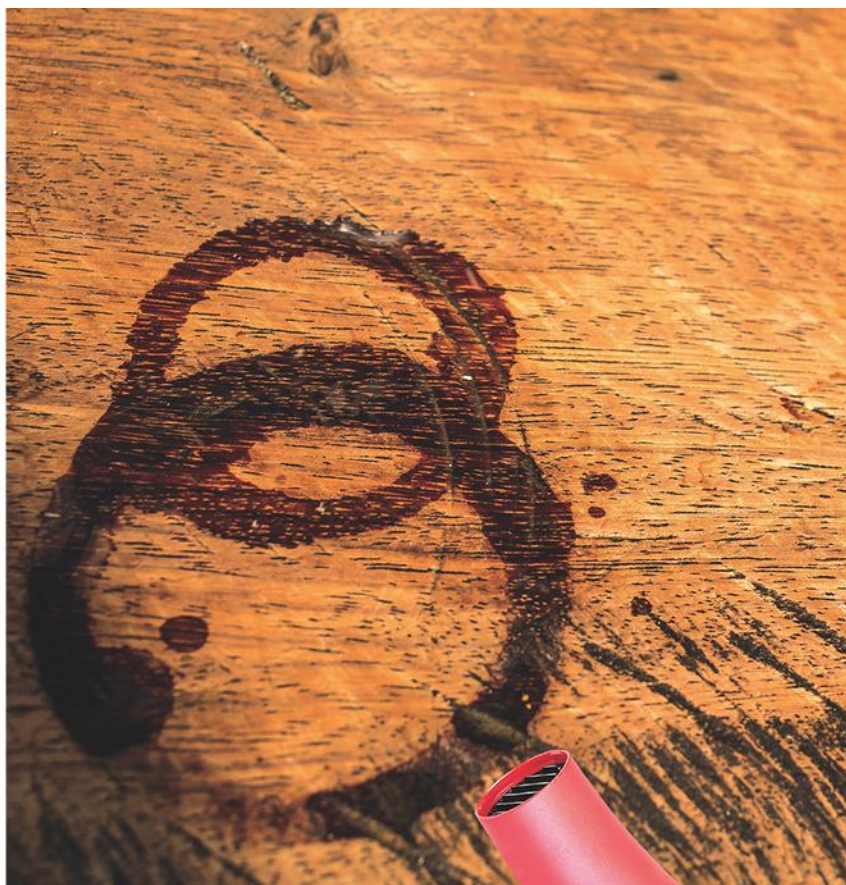
52 **WALLS WITH SATIN OR GLOSSY PAINT**

finishes can be touched up using white, non-gel toothpaste. Pinch a bit of toothpaste onto a cotton swab or soft bristled toothbrush and gently rub into the scuff. Then wipe the area with a clean, damp cloth and dry. This method works on ceramic and laminate tiles, as well.





53 **LEATHER FURNITURE** should be vacuumed regularly and conditioned seasonally with a specialty lotion. But if you find yourself with a sudden scuff, use similarly colored shoe polish to hide the mark.



54 **GET RID OF WATER** rings on wooden tables by blow-drying them into submission. Simply blast the area with low heat until the mark begins to fade. Skip this on antiques, however, to avoid damaging delicate finishes.



55 **MAKE YOUR OWN** Swiffer pads from old socks; cozy chenille, in particular, works well. Wrap socks around the bottom of the mop and clean away!



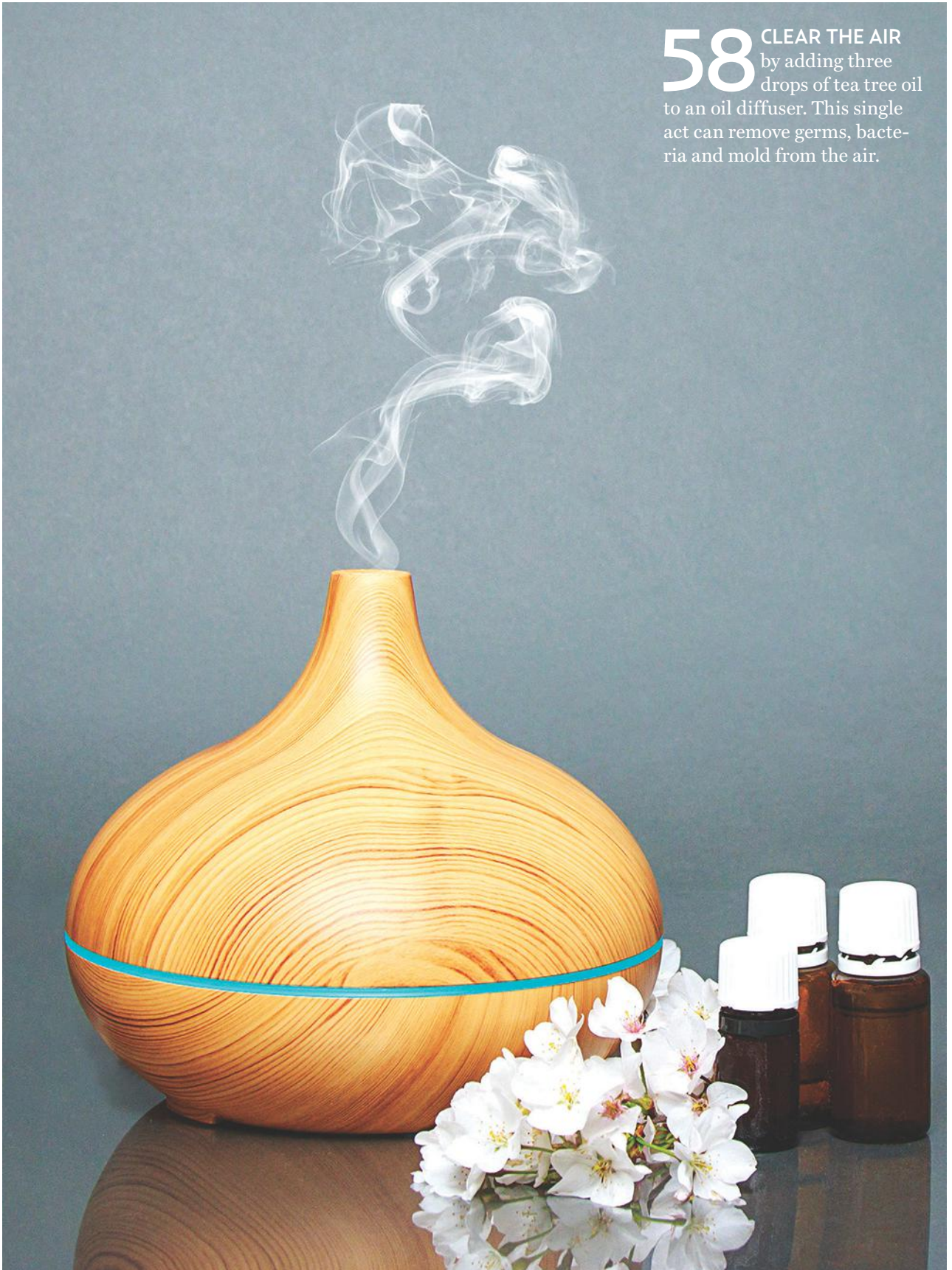


56 **NO ROOM FOR**
a full dining room
table? Attach a
long plank shelf to a window
(make sure you don't prevent
it from being opened) and pull
up a few café chairs for a quick
coffee-shop vibe.



57 WIPE BASEBOARDS with dryer sheets to keep them debris-free even longer. The coating on the sheets imparts anti-static properties to the wood, preventing more dust from collecting.

58 CLEAR THE AIR
by adding three
drops of tea tree oil
to an oil diffuser. This single
act can remove germs, bacteria
and mold from the air.



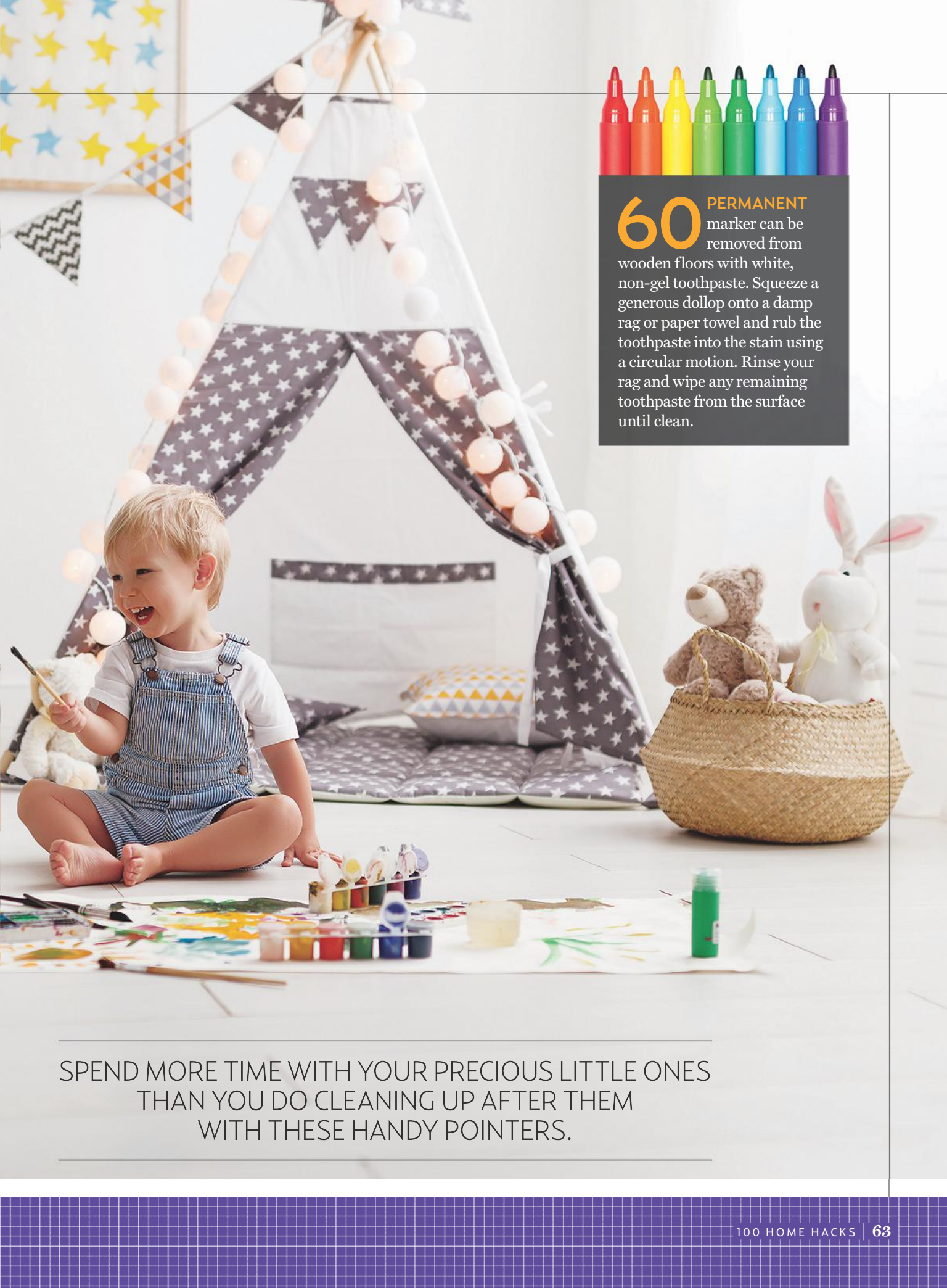




59 **DISINFECT YOUR** yoga mat with a solution made from tea tree and eucalyptus oils, witch hazel and water. Fill a small spray bottle $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way with water; fill the rest with witch hazel, leaving a bit of room for the oils. Finally, add 10 drops of tea tree and 5 drops of eucalyptus oil and shake until well combined. Spray on the mat and let dry.



Kids' Room



60 PERMANENT marker can be removed from wooden floors with white, non-gel toothpaste. Squeeze a generous dollop onto a damp rag or paper towel and rub the toothpaste into the stain using a circular motion. Rinse your rag and wipe any remaining toothpaste from the surface until clean.

SPEND MORE TIME WITH YOUR PRECIOUS LITTLE ONES
THAN YOU DO CLEANING UP AFTER THEM
WITH THESE HANDY POINTERS.



61 ERASE CRAYON

marks from walls with baking soda. Simply mix with water to make a paste (half baking soda, half water) and scrub the paste onto the wall using a sponge.



62 **THROW TOYS IN THE DISHWASHER** for a quick cleaning and rinse. Just be sure not to use a bleach detergent and watch for cheap (i.e., meltable) toys and paint jobs. Place smaller toys in the silverware basket, medium toys in the top rack and large toys in the bottom rack.



63 **SANITIZE SIPPY** cups with vinegar. Mix a cup of white vinegar into a large pot filled with hot water and place sippy cups (or plastic bottles) inside. Soak for a few minutes and remove to cool on a dish towel. Wash them again using dish soap for a thorough cleaning with zero residue.



64 **LINT ROLLERS** are great for quickly picking up glitter and other small particles from arts and crafts time. The mild adhesive is ideal for ensnaring tiny pieces.

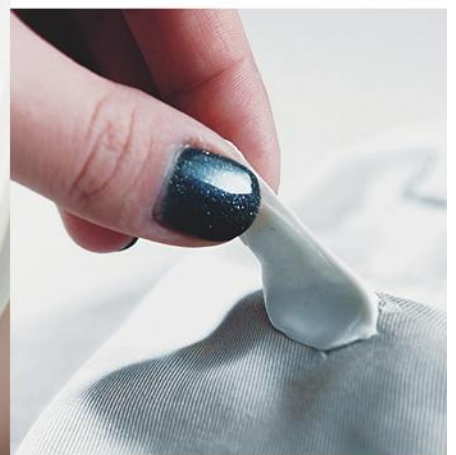


65 IF YOUR DIAPER bin stinks, add a couple of pieces of charcoal (or newspaper) to the bottom to absorb smells. The natural dehumidifier — an easy product to find online — will absorb moisture and reduce condensation and bacteria.





66 REMOVE STAINS from onesies with hydrogen peroxide. Flush the stain with warm water, apply a generous amount of hydrogen peroxide to it and let sit for at least 30 minutes. Then use a wet, soft brush or towel to gently work in the peroxide. Finally, rinse the stain with warm water. Repeat until stain is removed.



67 HAS YOUR CHILD come home with gum on their clothes? Pop the item in a freezer bag and place it in the freezer for a couple of hours. When you remove the garment from the bag, peel off the gum immediately (before it reattaches). It should come right off with fingernails or a butter knife.

68 TANGLED DOLL HAIR

can be a major issue, but it's avoidable with a few easy steps. Mix equal amounts of liquid fabric softener and water and soak the doll hair until thoroughly saturated. Hold the doll tightly then begin brushing hair, starting at the ends, until the tangles have been removed. Rinse the fabric softener out with a mixture of equal amounts of water and white vinegar, and finish with a few spritzes of a hair-conditioning spray. Barbie will never get a haircut again!



69 WASH STUFFED

animals in the gentle cycle of a washing machine. Place them in a mesh laundry bag or pillowcase that zips shut to prevent sewn- or glued-on appliqués from damage. Make sure the machine is set on gentle/delicate and on cold/warm water and allow the fuzzy friends to air dry.



Bedroom

THE INNERMOST SANCTUARY OF OUR HOMES, BEDROOMS ARE MEANT FOR REST AND RELAXATION, BUT OFTENTIMES THEY DEVOLVE INTO OUR HOME OFFICES, PLAYROOMS AND PET HIDEOUTS. THAT'S WHY IT'S PARAMOUNT TO KEEP THEM TIDY AND SACRED.





70 **DEODORIZE** mattresses and upholstered furniture with vodka poured into a spray bottle. The alcohol smell evaporates along with any foul odors while the mattress airs out.

71 **DIVIDERS OF ALL** types and sizes are available everywhere from the Container Store to Home Depot and can save time spent searching for specific wardrobe items. Be sure to measure drawers and closets before purchasing.





72 A HANGING SHOE organizer for the back of a closet door can hold so much more than just footwear in its divided pockets. Store scarves, baby clothes, hair dryers and curling irons, outdoor accessories and more. And, of course, shoes.

73 STORAGE BINS Keep out-of-season or rarely worn clothing in bins under your bed. Be sure to invest in a lidded box with wheels for easy access and a minimum of dust.



74 **KEEP A COOL-**
looking hamper
in the bedroom,
so you won't be tempted to
throw dirty clothes on the
floor. For bonus points, line
the hamper with a laundry
bag to make transporting
soiled clothes easy when it's
time to do the wash.






75 **CREATE A**
storage nook.
Install a curtain
rod in a tucked-away area of
the bedroom, leaving a few
inches' depth for storage, and
hang a nice fabric to hide
your stuff.

76 **MAKE YOUR OWN LINEN SPRAY** with lavender oil to create a tranquil vibe. Shake a tightly lidded jar filled with 2 tablespoons of witch hazel or vodka and 10 drops of lavender essential oil until well mixed. Add 3 ounces of water to the jar and shake again for about 20 seconds. Using a funnel, pour the liquid into a small spray bottle and voilà! Just be wary of using it around cats, since it can be toxic for them.



77 **THE KEY TO AN** unsullied space is regular weekly dusting and vacuuming, either with Swiffer products or DIY tools like old socks and T-shirts. Set a weekly reminder on your phone, and keep up this habit.





78 IF YOU USE A humidifier regularly, after unplugging and disassembling it, fill the tank with a mixture of equal parts white vinegar and water. Let it sit for a few hours before emptying, rinsing and drying. This will remove any harmful microbes.



79 A SIMPLE WAY to dust lampshades is by using a lint roller. It deftly removes particles and pet hair in seconds.





80 **NO LINT** roller in the house? Use a thin, dry rubber glove's friction to easily remove pet hair from fabric. Put on the glove and rub in a downward or side motion. The hair clumps together, and the resulting fur ball can be plucked away easily.



81 **HOOKS ARE YOUR** friends when it comes to storage. Buy decorative ones for jewelry and hats, 3M removable ones for calendars and hanging art, and plain but sturdy metal ones for stowing handbags in your closet.



82 **DISPLAY DENIM**
jeans by hanging them from S-hooks — the kind you get for cheap in packs at IKEA — instead of hangers. Hang the hooks through the belt loops, and none of your dungarees will get creased at the knees.



83 **IF YOU LIVE IN A**
warm climate, tank tops are a clothing staple. Hook tank top straps into clean shower curtain rings. Then attach the rings to a closet bar or pants hanger for maximized closet space and a full display of your collection.

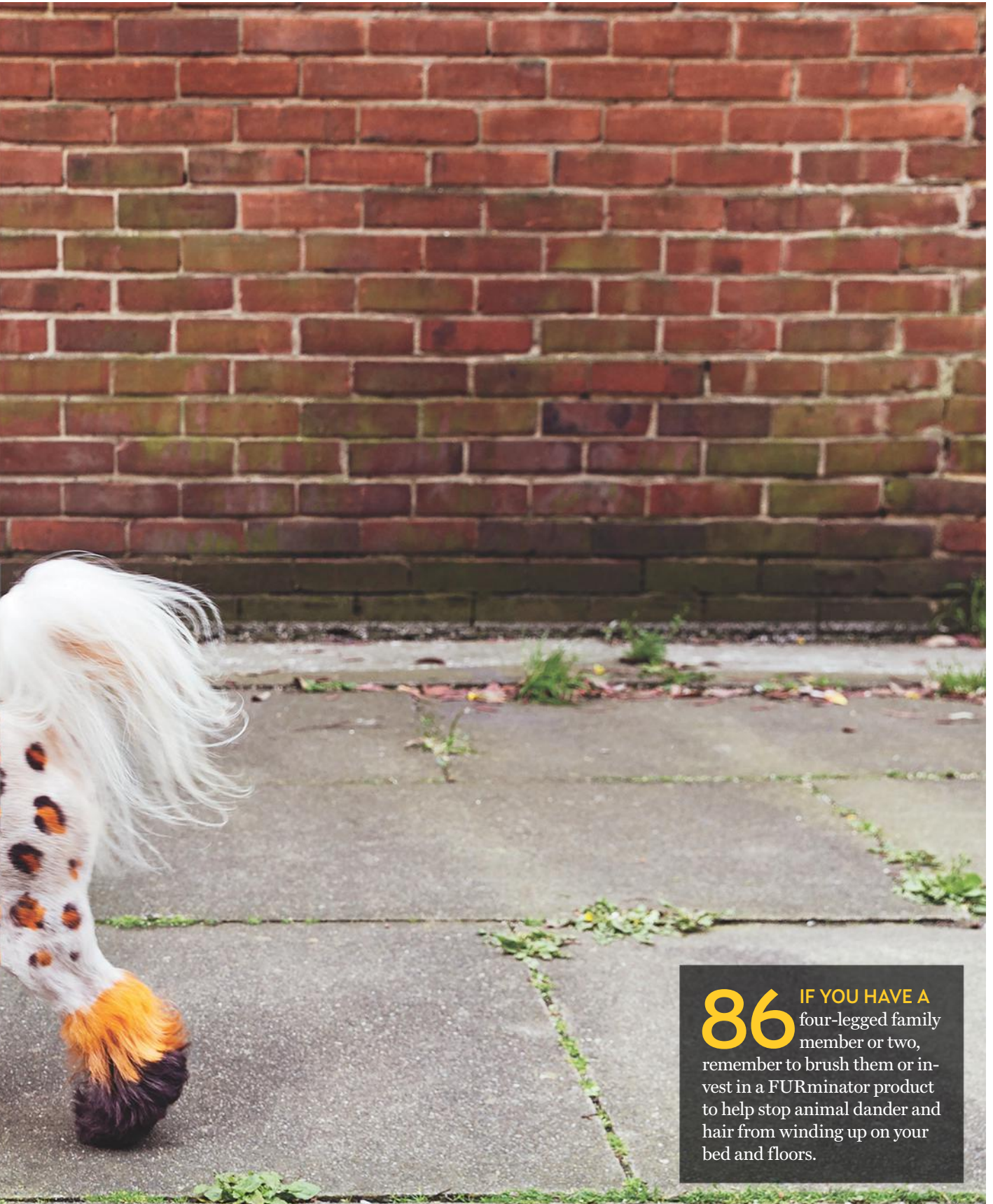
84 AN EASY WAY TO CLEAN WINDOW BLINDS is by sheathing your hand in a clean old sock and wiping down (or across) the rows of slats, with or without a spritz of dusting spray. You'll get a mini workout while you tidy up.





85 **ATTACH BINDER**
clips to the edge
of your desk and
store cords in their arms for
easy access. You'll never scour
the floor looking for your
phone charger again!





86 IF YOU HAVE A four-legged family member or two, remember to brush them or invest in a FURminator product to help stop animal dander and hair from winding up on your bed and floors.

87 **ADD A PEGBOARD**
to one wall, and pop in hooks. The toolshed staple is a great way to store jewelry and accessories like scarves and hats where you can see them.





88 **DISPLAY WOOD** dresser drawers as hanging wall shelves. Score some deals at flea markets and garage sales by buying them in different sizes. Repaint to match your decor and get creative!



89 **USE CORKBOARD TO** display enamel pin collections (and necklaces of various lengths, hung on pins or hooks). Buy a simple one at an office supply store and decorate the edges with colored contact paper, or invest in a fancy frame for the ultimate presentation.



Garage

MORE THAN SIMPLY A CAR DEPOT, A GARAGE SERVES AS A STOREHOUSE, CRAFT WORKSHOP, TOY REPOSITORY AND MORE. WITH SUCH DIVERSE USES, IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP THINGS ORGANIZED.



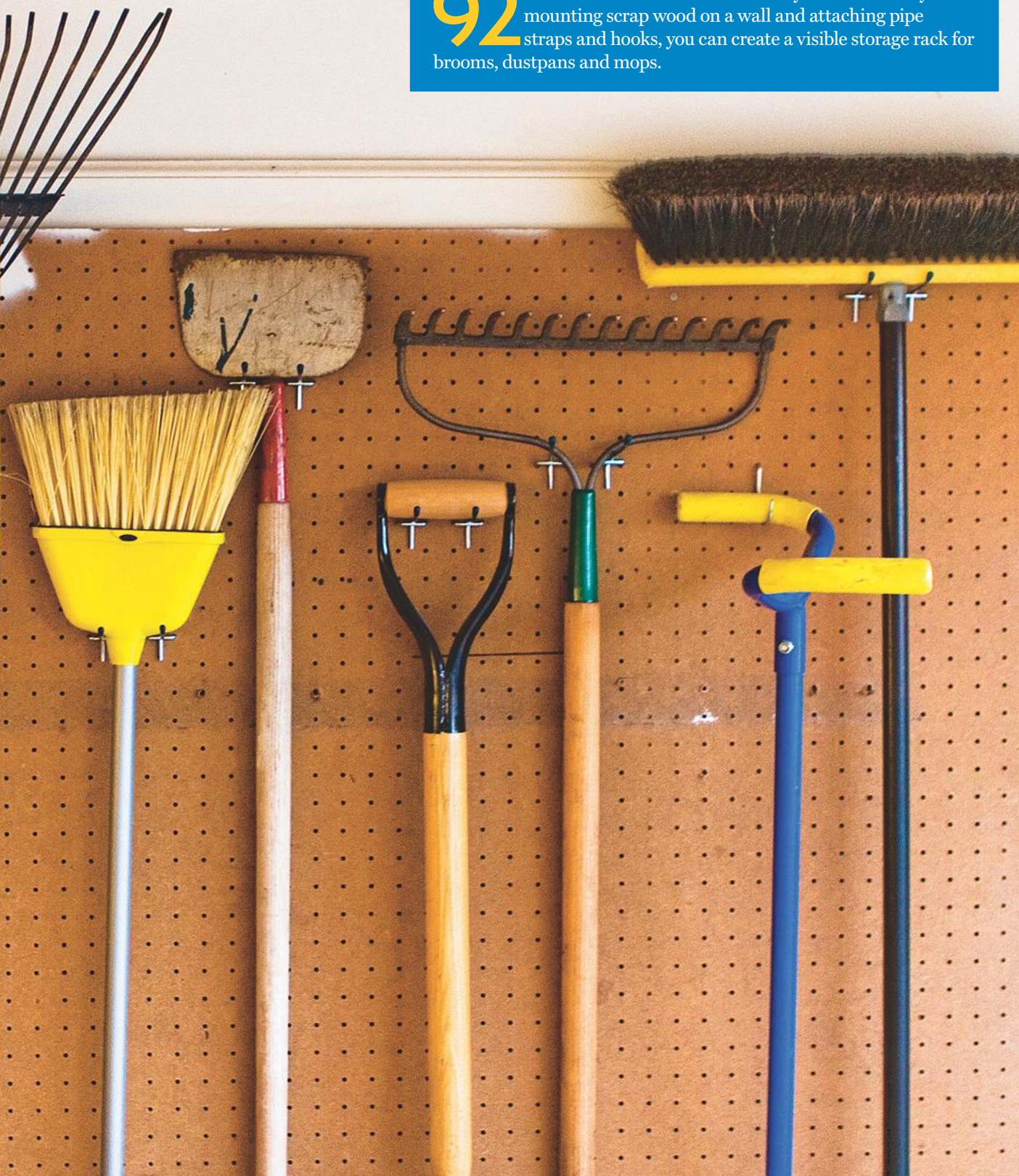
90 **PAINT THE GARAGE FLOOR.** It will seal cracks, extend the life of the floor and prevent moisture damage. It should take two to four cans of paint, so for around \$100, you can make your garage floor feel expensive. Start from one corner in the back of the garage and paint your way over the entire surface to the opposite corner nearest the door.



91 COFFEE CAN ROPE dispensers prevent twine from getting tangled and give new life to your empty canisters. Simply cut a slit in the middle of the plastic lid, remove, place rope or twine inside the can and pull the end through the lid. Place lid back on top and dispense.



92 **USE WALLS TO ORGANIZE** easy-to-see tools. By mounting scrap wood on a wall and attaching pipe straps and hooks, you can create a visible storage rack for brooms, dustpans and mops.



93 HANG A "CAR wash" bucket, fill it with supplies, and it's ready to go next time you need it! Take a flat-backed feed bucket, hang it using a picture hanger and carry everything you need in one trip from the garage to the driveway.





94 **REFRESH STINKY SPORTS GEAR** in the wash by adding three drops of tea tree oil with laundry detergent. It'll remove bad odors caused by microbial accumulation, and your garments will smell as good as new.



95 **FREEZE BAD** smells, like those wafting from stinky sports helmets, cleats and running shoes. Just put the items in a large zip-top bag and freeze them overnight. The subzero temperatures will kill the odor.



96 YOUR SHORT-LIVED golf bag's career just got a second wind — as a garden tool holder. The pockets make it perfect for equipment of any size. Place rakes and shovels where the golf clubs belong and use the pockets for gloves, seeds, trowels and other hand tools.



97 SUFFER NO MORE TANGLED EXTENSION cords with this easy trick! Hang them on the wall using a foot-long section of chain and a coat hook. Mount the coat hook on a stud or use wall hangers.



98 THROUGH THE use of clothespins and scrap wood, you can give light garden gear a spot on the wall. Use wood glue to secure clothespins onto a rectangular piece of wood, parallel to each other, and screw in picture hangers into the ends of the board. Hang with picture-hanging wire.

99 IKEA HAS everything, including storage solutions... for everything! Use large bins to keep sports gear organized so you're not tripping over baseball gloves and football pads. Take your tidying one step further and find lidded, stackable bins to save space!

IKEA



100 MOUNTED RECYCLING BIN RACKS are an easy way to expand your floor space. For a standard 20-inch-wide bin, take an 18-inch-long 2x4 to support the bottom of the bin, plus a 1x4 and a 2x4 (both 18 inches long) for the top. Level the 2x4 so it sits flush against the wall horizontally and screw it in. Use the bin as a spacer, and position the other 2x4 above its top rim. Overlap the 1x4 1½ inches below the top of the 2x4, creating a lip that hooks over the edge of the bin, to hold it in place.

