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## Natural Home & Air Fresheners

*Toss that store-bought aerosol spray and kill at-home odours naturally!*

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## Natural Home & Air Fresheners

Having troubles with lingering odours in the home or in hard to clean fabrics? We've all had to cope at one time or another with smelly fridges, odourific sports closets, aromatic cooking residues, the bouquet of wet dog, and the stench of a musty vehicle. Aerosols and other spray scented products only cover up odours rather than eliminating them. Whatever your smell challenges, try to rid yourself of them without artificially masking them using these green scent freshening ideas!

### Natural Surface and Air Fresheners

The best place to start with any air freshening task is to find the source of the smell and get rid of it. Once that's done, try these ideas for air deodorizers that can be placed around the house, in closets, in your car, or your fridge:

**Baking soda, borax or Zeolite:** The tried and true baking soda or borax methods for keeping odours out of your refrigerator also work in closets, rooms, and cars. The volcanic mineral Zeolite works in a similar manner, and can be purchased at many natural food stores. Make sure to also replace these fresheners periodically, as they lose their potency over time.

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**Bamboo charcoal:** These have recently become popular and work by absorbing odours instead of masking them, usually with a honeycomb design. Plus, at the end of their use they can be added to the soil of plants in helping them retain moisture!



Photocredit: Google Images / Wikimedia

**Lemon juice or vinegar:** Wipe cutting boards, rinse garbage cans, clean floors, and wash walls with one of these affordable, fresh-smelling alternatives to bleach. They'll disinfect, too! [Learn more about lemon juice and vinegar cleaners here >>](#)



Photocredit: Flickr / wwarby

**Dry DIY aromatics:** Dry some orange slices and place in small fabric bags with cloves and a few drops of vanilla to hang in closets, vehicles, or near garbages to freshen up the space. Cedar or pine wood pieces can be used in a similar manner.



Photocredit: Flickr / mommyknows { Kim Becker }

## Green Fabric Fresheners

Instead of spritzing your furniture, drapery, and carpets with deodorants that only mask odour problems, try these natural scent-scrubbing alternatives:

**Baking soda or vinegar:** Sprinkle on clothing and home fabrics and let sit for 24 hours or more to absorb the odours, then launder normally. This may require repeated applications to completely remove strong odours.

**Sunlight:** Solarize! Believe it or not, solar energy can be used to deodorize many textiles and even kill dust mites. This is a great way to freshen large items including wool blankets, drapery, bulky comforters, pillows, and even mattresses. Just set your items outside for a day or more (make sure it's dry

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and sunny), while turning every couple of hours. Amp up the odour-fighting ability of the sun by sealing items in dry, clear plastic bags and adding a couple of drops of essential oil.



Photocredit: Flickr / [intocollidingentropy](#)

## About the Author:

Maryruth has been seeking the keys to environmental justice—both at home and at work—for over a decade. Growing up adjacent to wild spaces, Maryruth developed a healthy respect (and whimsical appreciation) for things non-human, but her practical mind constantly draws her down to earth to ponder tangible solutions to complex eco-problems. With interests that range from green living to green business, sustainable building designs to organic gardening practices, ecosystem restoration to environmental health, Maryruth has been exploring and writing about earth-matters for most of her life. Of special interest is the subject of ecopsychology and the role the natural world plays in the long-term health and well-being of humanity. You can learn more about Maryruth's work by [visiting her site](#).

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