

Planetary Wellbeing

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Natural Recipes for Rust Remover

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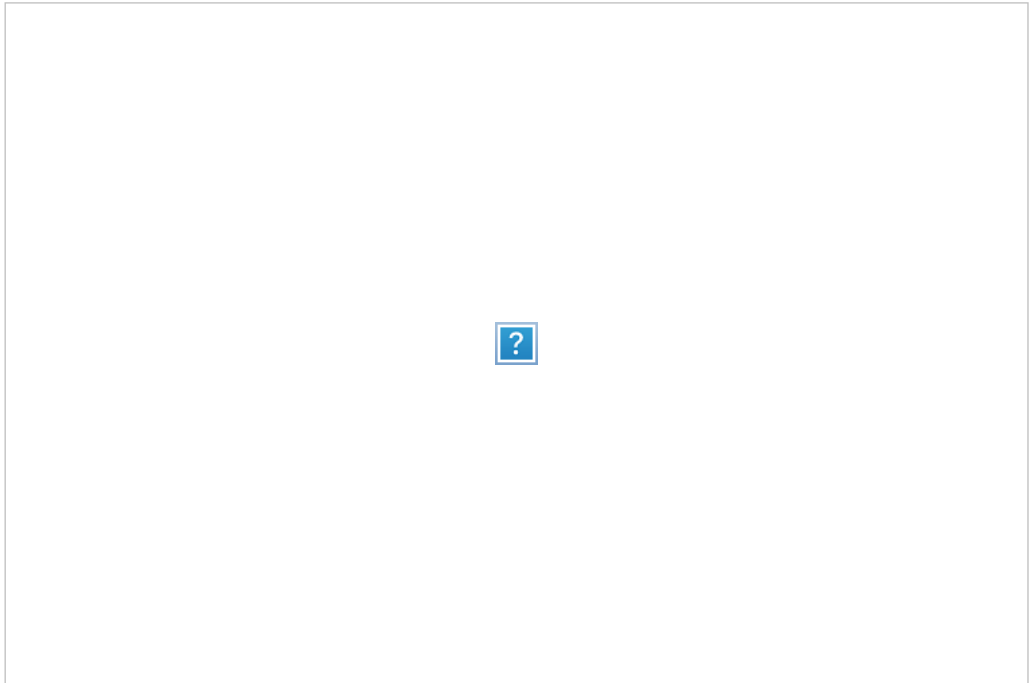
Rust stains are common around drains, on tools, and even of flatware. Store bought rust removers use toxic chemicals to remove rust, but our eco-friendly rust remover recipes will help you get rid of rust stains while protecting your health and the environment. Check out our other [homemade green cleaning recipes](#) for more eco cleaning inspiration.

Quick Facts: Health Hazards of Common Rust Removers

- **1-1-1 Trichloroethane solvents (Tetrachloroethylene, ethene, ethylene):** Liver and kidney damage if ingested; a known carcinogen.
- **Xylene:** This is a potential carcinogen, as well as a known neurotoxin and will cause developmental. It also irritates nose, throat, and eyes and can lead to vomiting.

DIY Green Cleaning Recipes for Rust Remover

1. **White vinegar rust remover:** Put some white vinegar on a soft cloth and rub the rust spot until it is removed. If you have several rusted items, such as jar lids, pour some white vinegar in a container large enough to accommodate several lids at a time and soak them.
2. **Vinegar and baking soda rust remover:** Make a paste by combining 1 cup of white vinegar with 1/3 cup baking soda. Scrub the rust stain with the paste, let sit a few minutes, and then rinse with water.
3. **Borax and lemon juice rust remover:** Combine equal parts lemon juice and borax to form a wet paste. Rub the paste on the rust stain, and then let it sit for a few minutes. Rinse with water to remove the paste.
4. **Lemon and salt rust remover:** Coat a lemon half with salt. Scrub the rust stain with the lemon until the stain is removed; add more salt if necessary.
5. **Potato or onion rust remover:** Cut a raw potato or a raw onion in half. Simply rub the potato or onion half on the rust stain until it is removed. If you need to scrub a large portion of rust, slice off a thin portion of the potato or onion to expose a fresh layer as needed.



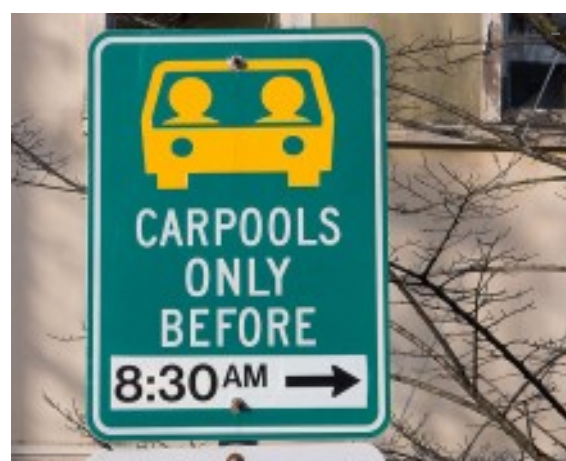
Dig Deeper: Chemicals in Typical Rust Removers

- Xylene: [Chemical Hazard Evaluation Group](#).
- 1,1,1-Trichloroethane MSDS: [ScienceLab.com](#).

Image via [richard_north](#)

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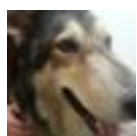


Recipes for Natural Powdered Laundry Detergent

Comments



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Karen B. Wood

I mixed the borax and lemon juice, which did a pretty fair job. The rust on my husband's table saw had been there a while, so I didn't expect it to come completely off. After that mix, I used the straight vinegar, which took off even more. Not much left. I'm pleased with the results.

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