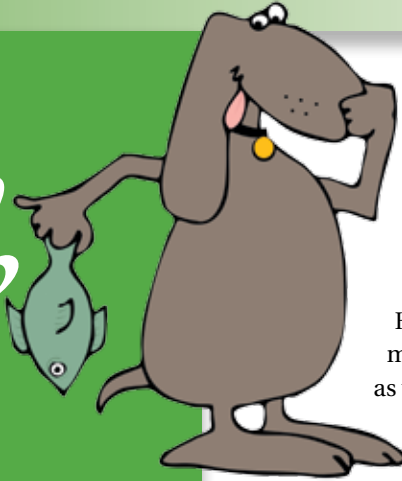


# Funk be gone



So when there's a hint or whisper of spring in the air, I tend to start the cleaning and deodorising of soft furnishings and carpet. I don't like commercially available carpet deodorisers—there's something in them that makes me sneeze and wheeze. Having a bird in the house also makes me more careful to what I use as cleaning agents as well.

— Simple solutions to deodorise and sanitise your home —

By Lisa Treen

If you're like me, you tend to shut the doors and windows through the winter months to keep out the cold and keep in the warmth. I love fresh air but not when there's a bitter chill to it.

My dog's bedding is kept simple. They have a couple of dog beds that I can take the covers off and put into a hot wash. But their preferred sleeping spots are on the couch. So I also have fake fur throws that can easily be run through a hot washing machine, line dried and then for a final fresh burst, I put them into the dryer for a quick spin with Dryer Sheets that impart a fresh fragrance.

To also minimise doggy smell, I routinely make up my own carpet deoderiser that is quick to make and easy on the budget.



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## RECIPES FOR CARPET DEODERISER

Homemade carpet deoderisers are a cheaper alternative to the commercially bought ones. The benefit of making your own is that you can choose the fragrance and not have to breath in artificial smells.

Baking Soda is your friend when making your own carpet deoderiser and is an excellent odour absorber. You just sprinkle it on your carpet and leave for at least fifteen minutes or preferably overnight, and then vacuum.

Fragrant flowers like lavender, crushed and combined, leaves an uplifting aroma. Use half a cup of crushed flowers to 1 cup of baking soda.

Essential oils are also good but you need to blend the oils well into the baking soda as the mixture can get a little clumpy. Suggested combinations would be:

Citrus Fruit blend: 3 drops lemon essential oil, 2 drops lavender essential oil and 1 drop bergamot



Herbal blend: 5 drops lavender essential oil, 4 drops rosemary essential oil and 2 drops eucalyptus essential oil

Flower and Citrus blend: Equal parts lavender and lemon essential oils

For a more spicy smell you can use 3 teaspoons of ground cinnamon and 3 teaspoons of ground cloves to combine with 1 cup of baking soda.

## OTHER USES FOR BAKING SODA

- Erase crayon, pencil, ink and furniture scuffs from painted surfaces: sprinkle baking soda on a damp sponge, rub clean and then rinse.
- Unclog a drain: pour ½ to 1 cup of baking soda down the drain and then slowly pour ½ to 1 cup of white vinegar after it. Let the solution sit for at least five minutes and then follow with two litres of boiling water.
- Scrub Pans: Sprinkle baking soda on crusted casserole and roasting pans and let sit for five minutes before lightly scrubbing and rinsing.

## THE BIG GUNS IN KILLING BAD PET SMELLS

From time to time, we all have big odours that need some serious help to exorcise out of the house or yard. It's these times that you may need to invest in some of the pet removal products, especially those that tackle urine. Many general cleaners only remove the water-soluble

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components of urine but leave behind that uric acid crystals that stain and create odour. It's important to use a product that completely eliminates the urine stain and odour. Using one of these products means that your pet won't be tempted to return to the soiled area.

## FIXING A STINKY SINK

If you've got a stinky sink with a garbage disposal, you can throw some citrus peelings down there, turn on the hot tap and let the disposal do the work. Lemon, grapefruit and orange rinds work a treat. If you don't have a garbage disposal, you can always pour a solution of about 5 drops of essential lemon oil to one cup of hot water down the drain.

## DEODERISING PLASTIC STORAGE CONTAINERS

Sometimes left-over dog or cat treats stored in a plastic containers can leave some unpleasant odours. Soak plastic containers in warm water and baking soda overnight. Bathe glass jars in a mixture of one teaspoon powdered mustard and half a litre of warm water.

## KILLING WEEDS WITHOUT CHEMICALS

Our pets have sensitive noses and skin and so minimising their exposure to harsh chemicals should be avoided. To kill weeds between the cracks of tiling and concrete fill a spray bottle of neat vinegar and spray area several times. Boiling hot water on weeds also works well.

Eliminate nasty backyard odours by removing poop and a good hosing with water. If smells linger, you can also use a product like Backyard Fresh which is safe for use

around pet areas. Your lawn can be revitalised from urine burn stains by using Dog Rocks in your dogs water.

They're safe to use and in no time you'll notice the difference in your lawn.

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