

# Thrifty DIY Laundry Solutions

Created by The\_Deal\_Diva- Thank you

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## Your Homemade Laundry Detergent Recipes + Bonus softening ideas!

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The first three recipes are smaller batch recipes; you can double etc. to create your desired amount of detergent. I use these for my “heavy duty” detergent, and the bucket detergent for my everyday formula. These powers can be used to create liquid detergent also, as outlined below.

### Basic Instructions For Recipes 1-3:

If you are making a powdered detergent, simply mix well and store in a tightly sealed container. Use care when storing your detergents, label well, and keep out of reach of children. This detergent I am told is sometimes effective using as little as 1 tablespoon. However, about 1/8-1/4 cup is the standard. I use 1/8 cup in our hard water.

### The Basic Three Tried & True Homemade Laundry Detergents



#### 1) Basic Formula Laundry Detergent

- + 1 cup soap flakes or grated soap
- + 1/2 cup washing soda
- + 1/2 cup borax

#### 2) Hard Water Laundry Detergent Recipe

- + 1 cup soap flakes or grated soap
- + 1 cup washing soda
- + 1 cup borax



### **3) Soft Water Laundry Detergent**

- + 1 cup soap flakes or grated soap
- + 1/4 cup washing soda
- + 1/2 cup borax

### **Basic Liquid Detergent Made From #1-3**

- + 1 cup of any of the above mixes
- + 2 tablespoons glycerin
- + 2 cups very warm water

Carefully stir glycerin and laundry detergent into the water. Store it in a sealed, labeled thick plastic or glass container. To use, measure 1/2 cup of the mix and wash your clothing in warm or cold water. Use cold water for the rinse cycle. This recipe makes about 12 ounces of detergent. Double etc. as desired. Use about 1/4 to 1/2 cup per load.  
*\* Note -do NOT use a milk jug or you will end up with a goopy mess.*

### **Liquid Laundry Soap Bucket** **Recipe #4**

- + 2/3 of a bar Fels-Naptha or pure soap (Ivory or other pure soap) grated, or buy flakes
- + 1 cup washing soda
- + 1 cup borax powder

Put grated soap or soap flakes into a sauce pan. Add 12 cups water, heat it until the soap melts. Then add washing soda & borax. Stir until dissolved, then remove from heat. Pour 8 cups hot water into the bucket, then add your soap mixture & stir. Then add 2 gallon, plus another 12 cups of water and stir. Let the soap sit for about 24 hours & it will gel up. Use 1/4 to 1/2 of a cup of detergent per load as a general rule.

*\* 5 gallon bucket- paint buckets work well- you can get an unused one at most stores that sell paint for very little, and use it again and again.*



## TIPS:

- ✓ Your finished laundry soap will be a watery gel rather than a solid gel.
- ✓ This is a low sudsing soap, but don't let this worry you-suds don't do the cleaning, the ingredients in the soap do. In fact, these suds are signs of chemicals and coconut oil, things that will dry your skin and clothing and make it rough.
- ✓ Optional: If you want your liquid soaps to have some sort of scent you can scent this with 1-2 oz. of essential oil or fragrance oil of your choice. There are many scents you could try including lemon, lavender, rose, orange, lilac, and other



essential oils. You're limited only by your imagination and essential oil availability. Be careful though, as some people have sensitive skin and will break out when using scents.

- ✓ High efficiency washers may need less soap. Experiment to find what works best for you.
- ✓ Your water influences how your detergents work. Soft water requires less detergent. Hard water requires more. Don't be afraid to skimp of

detergent until you notice it is not working as well. More is not always better, when you get to the effective amount needed being  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup, using one  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup isn't going to wash much better. And a full cup will just be a complete waste!

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## \*\*\*Bonus Recipes and Solutions\*\*\*

### Traditional Detergent Extender

- + 1 cup powdered Tide (works best, but others can be used)
- + 1 cup baking soda



- ✚ 1/4 cup grated Fels-Naptha (preferred) or other pure soap.

Mix thoroughly- Just 1 tablespoon can usually get laundry clean if you use Tide & Fels-Naptha, experiment to see what works for you.

### **Traditional Fabric Softener Substitutes:**

- ✚ White vinegar is a natural fabric softener (1/2 cup a load usually works - in the washer). Increases towel and similar fabric absorbency whereas regular fabric softeners tend to block absorbency.
- ✚ 1/4 cup Borax in your rinse water softens and brightens laundry.
- ✚ Purchase a very large container of a cheap hair conditioner, and dilute approx. 3:1 – 3 parts water, 1 part conditioner.



### **Very Effective Fabric Softener Extending Recipes:**

#### **✚ The Sponge Solution**

- Take a regular size sponge & cut it into 4 pieces. I then put liquid fabric softener in a jar & add the pieces of sponge. When using the dryer, take one of these pieces of sponge from the jar, wring thoroughly to remove excess softener, & put into the dryer with your wet clothes.

#### **✚ The Towel Solution**

- Take an old towel and soak it in liquid fabric softener. Wring it out well, and return excess fabric softener to the bottle. Allow the towel to dry before using it. Your reusable laundry softener "sheet" should last you at through about 40 loads of laundry. A bottle of liquid fabric softener will last a very long time.

#### **✚ The Simplest Solution**

- Simply split regular fabric softener sheets into halves, or possibly thirds or quarters. Experiment to see how little will still be effective for you.



## About the Ingredients:

**Soap Flakes:** These can be purchased by the box, but if you are unable to find them, a food/cheese grater can be used to grate soap to use. I recommend grating basic pure soaps like Ivory, or a glycerin soap to create a vegetarian/vegan detergent.

**Washing Soda (Sodium Carbonate):** Sodium Carbonate is sometimes sold as a laundry booster. If you cannot find it in the laundry aisle, check with pool/spa suppliers for this. Arm and Hammer makes 'Super Washing Soda' -To find a location near you, you can call the Arm & Hammer toll free locator number at 1-800-524-1328.

**Fels Naptha:** Laundry bar soap sold to get rid of stains or to hand wash clothing. If you cannot find this soap, substitute with lye based soap. Ivory is a good inexpensive and easy to find substitute.



Soap Flakes



Washing Soda



Fels-Naptha

Other Resources:

Another great resource is [www.soapsgonebuy.com](http://www.soapsgonebuy.com) ~

*“Have a great time spending your hard earned cash on something other than soap going down the drain! A little bit of knowledge and a little bit of effort saves you a lot of money, and makes the world a little less polluted. Pat yourself on the back for trying something new and doing something good for you and the planet!”*

- C. Blount 2007

