

HOMEMADE LIQUID LAUNDRY DETERGENT

I wasn't happy with the recipes for homemade laundry detergent I was finding so I played around a little with the measurements & made my own. I've been using this for several years & have converted many of my friends too. 5 gallons cost you less than \$2, & you just can't beat that.

For a little extra cleaning power, you can add OxiClean to the wash with it. For extra scent, you can mix in a bottle of one of the many laundry scent boosters on the market (or add it individually to each load, that's what I do actually). You can also use a few drops of your favorite essential oils to the rinse load of your wash load.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Borax

Arm & Hammer Super Washing Soda (NOT baking soda)

5.5oz Fels-Naptha Soap (you can also use Zote or castile soap
water

5 gallon bucket

First, you grate up your Fels-Naptha soap. Or you can substitute Zote (which will make your laundry detergent pink for all your girly-girls) or pure pure castile soap.

Add the soap shreds to a pot with 4 cups of hot water. Put the heat on medium-high, and stir until completely melted – about 10 minutes.

Fill up a 5 gallon bucket halfway with hot water. Pour in the melted soap mixture. Then, stir in 1 cup of borax & 1 cup of washing soda.

If you're using the essential oil, now is the time to add it. You add in 1/2oz to 1oz, depending on how scented you want it. Although, I never really measure it anymore – I just shake in enough drops to where I feel satisfied, and stir.

Now, fill up the bucket with warm water all the way to the top – and stir again. If you don't have a utensil long enough to reach the bottom, just put on a pair of rubber dish gloves beforehand.

Snap on a lid, and let it sit for 24 hours to gel up.

At this point, you can divide it up between different containers (empty laundry detergent containers, milk jugs, etc). I prefer to save 1 laundry detergent container, & refill it as needed to save on space.

A lot of people like to dilute it even more at this step (therefor turning the 5 gallons into 10 gallons) – filling their container halfway with the gel & then the other half with water. You can choose to do this if you like. However, my family seems to produce pretty dirty clothes, and I prefer to not dilute mine further. I feel like the cleaning power is stronger this way.

***Note: it will be more of a gloppy gel than purely gel, and this is completely NORMAL – and what it should look like. Sort of like egg noodle soup – liquid with gel glops in it. Also, if it is a humid day or you make a minor error in making the recipe – your laundry detergent may remain of a liquid state. This is completely fine,

and you should continue to use it as directed. It will make no effect on the cleaning power of the detergent! However, if you prefer to have a smoother consistency, more like the store-bought detergent – you can mix it with an immersion blender at this point to smooth it all out. This is only a personal preference though ***