

Vinegar

I buy White Distilled Vinegar by the gallon at the grocery store because it has many uses around the home and campsite. It works well to clean the soap scum off the shower glass wall. It dissolves chewing gum from carpets or other difficult fabrics.

It discourages ants! We had cut a ham in the motorhome for our unit rally supper. The counter top was cleaned before we left for dinner. When we came home the ants had found what we thought was a clean countertop and made it into an ant freeway. We sponged the whole area with vinegar and walked away. Came home to no ants. Evidently it cuts not only the lingering food grease and scent, but also disguises the ant-marked-roadway scent. Subsequent ant reinforcements can't figure out where their buddies have been crawling.

It removes rust. Whether it is a tow chain or a yard scissors, if it stays out in the rain for too long it gets very rusty. A friend of mine was throwing away a tow chain that was too rusty for him to use. I took it home, cut the top off of a gallon jug and dumped it in. Poured vinegar in to cover it by about ½ inch. Walked away for a week. The mild acid of the vinegar stripped the rust and caused an ugly, floating brown foam at the top of the jug. But at the end of the week I pulled it out and knocked off the residue with water from the garden hose, dried it in the sun after toweling off what I could. I applied WD – 40 and it looks like new.