

# vinegar, and the many applications of vinegar

## **Space in your Airstream is always a precious commodity.**

When you are out traveling you never know what circumstance may arise; where having just the right product or tool will be a life saver. I can think of no one product that has been around longer and that can be used in more ways than vinegar; it can significantly reduce the amount of cleaning products and disinfectants that you will need to carry in your Airstream.

Vinegar can be used as a disinfectant, first aid tool, cleaner/deodorizer and can be used for de-icing windshields and loosening rusted bolts.

There are many types of vinegars but one that is widely used and is a popular household cleanser is white vinegar: it is effective for killing most mold, bacteria, and germs, due to its level of acidity. Cleaning with white distilled vinegar is a way to avoid using harsh chemicals; it is environmentally friendly and very economical.

There are literally hundreds of recorded uses for vinegar; below I have highlighted a few of my favorite uses for vinegar;

### **As a cleaner:**

**To shine chrome sink fixtures** that have a lime buildup, use a paste made of 2 tablespoons salt and 1 teaspoon white distilled vinegar.

**Make your own scouring cleanser** by combining 1/4 cup baking soda with 1 tablespoon liquid detergent. Add just enough white distilled vinegar to give it a thick but creamy texture.

**Clean counter tops** and make them smell sweet again with a cloth soaked in undiluted white distilled vinegar.

**Get rid of hard water stains** with a rinse made from 3 parts soft water to one part white distilled vinegar.

**Create an all-purpose window cleaner** with a few ounces of white distilled vinegar in a quart of water.

**Rid the windshield wipers of road grime** by wiping them with a white distilled vinegar-soaked cloth.

**Remove dirt and stains from carpeting** with a mixture of half white distilled vinegar and half water.

### **As a Deodorizer:**

**Clean your microwave** by mixing 1/2 cup white distilled vinegar and 1/2 cup water in a microwave-safe bowl. Bring it to a rolling boil inside the microwave. Baked-on food will be loosened, and odors will disappear. Wipe clean.

**Clean and deodorize a drain** by pouring in 1 cup baking soda, then one cup hot white distilled vinegar. Let this sit for 5 minutes or so then run hot water down the drain.

**Freshen air in the bathroom** by spraying into the air a solution of 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 tablespoon white distilled vinegar, and 1 cup water.

**Get rid of mildew, dust, and stale odors** by wiping down walls with undiluted white distilled vinegar on a cloth or a sponge mop.

**Remove the smell of a dead mouse** or other rodent (after removing all animal remnants) by wiping down the area with either white distilled vinegar or bleach. Then place a fabric softener sheet in the area to remove any lingering odors.

**Remove the smell of spoiled food from a refrigerator** by first rinsing the area with soap and water. Spray surfaces with full-strength white distilled vinegar and wipe them down with a damp cloth or sponge. Fill some containers with baking soda and place inside. Close the door and leave for a few days.

### **For Maintenance:**

**When doing RV or truck maintenance, soak rusty bolts and screws** with white distilled vinegar to make them easier to remove.

**To remove a label, decal, or price tag**, cover with a cloth soaked in white distilled vinegar. Leave the cloth on overnight and the label should slide off.

**Remove white water rings from wood** with a solution of equal parts white distilled vinegar and vegetable oil. Rub with the grain.

#### **For First aid:**

**Stop insect stings and bites from itching** by dabbing them with a cotton ball saturated with undiluted white distilled vinegar.

**Soothe sunburn** with a spray of white distilled vinegar, repeating as often as you like. Ice-cold white distilled vinegar will feel even better, and may prevent blistering and peeling.

**For cuts and scrapes**, use white distilled vinegar as an antiseptic.

**If commercial aftershaves cause rashes and itching**, try using undiluted white distilled vinegar as an aftershave lotion.

#### **For Food:**

Last but not least enjoy a salad with a tangy vinaigrette dressing. Regular and flavored vinegars are versatile recipe ingredients that add flavor and can also contribute to good health!

Summary: The important thing to remember is vinegar is environmentally friendly, economical, versatile and tastes good-Vinegar is your friend!

If you would like to see more uses visit **vinegar tips.com**.

Information from Vinegar tips .com Mizkan Americas, Inc. and from the Vinegar Institute

#### **Did you know?**

Airstream has owner's manuals for sale for most trailer years 1964 through 1997 and service manuals for years 1972 through 1984. The owners manuals are \$30 and service manuals are \$60 a piece; they can be purchased at the Service Center Store in Jackson Center and through our online store at [www.airstream.com](http://www.airstream.com).

#### **Ever Happen to You?**

While on a road trip, an elderly couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. After finishing their meal, they left the restaurant and resumed their trip. When leaving, the elderly woman unknowingly left her glasses on the table. And, she didn't miss them until after they had been driving about twenty minutes. By then, to add to the aggravation, they had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place to turn around in order to return to the restaurant to retrieve her glasses. All the way back, the elderly husband became the classic grouchy old man. He fussed and complained and scolded his wife relentlessly during the entire return drive. The more he chided her, the more agitated he became.

He just wouldn't let up one minute. To her relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant and as the woman got out of the motorhome and hurried inside to retrieve her glasses, the old geezer yelled to her, "While you're in there, you might as well get my hat."

Have a good month and we'll see you on down the road.