



10-15-1982

Granny's Helpful Tips

Donita Lucas Shields

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview>

Recommended Citation

Shields, Donita Lucas (1982) "Granny's Helpful Tips," *Westview*: Vol. 2 : Iss. 1 , Article 8.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol2/iss1/8>

This Nonfiction is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Westview by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.



HOUSEHOLD TIPS

Granny's

HELPFUL
TIPS

Like the early-day remedies and medications used by my grandparents, my grandmother in the Sentinel, Oklahoma, area relied upon household cleaning methods made from simple, inexpensive, and available materials. When comparing these cleaning procedures with those of today, I can only presume that Grandma's elbow grease was the basic ingredient, an ingredient undoubtedly equally mixed with the determination of having the most spotless home upon the dusty prairie. These helpful hints, like the early-day medical remedies, were handed down and shared with relatives and friends.

Soft Soap: Boil 25 lbs. of fried grease and 2 pails of strong lye. Next day add another pail of hot lye. If there is grease on top of the soap the next day, add another pail. Add a pailful of hot water each day until soap barrel is filled.

Hard Soap: Add 2 lbs. of salt and 1 lb. of resin to 5 pails of soft soap. Cook slowly. When ingredients are thoroughly fused together, turn out in shallow pans so as to be easily cut.

To Clean Bath Tubs: Dirt on porcelain can be removed with kerosene. Apply with a saturated cloth, rinse off, and rub with hot water and soda. White blotches on zinc-lined tubs may be removed in the same way.

To Clean Bottles: Put powdered charcoal with either hot or cold water into the bottle and shake thoroughly. Allow the water to stay in the bottle for a little while.

To Clean Carpets: Sprinkle with moist tea leaves. Sweep thoroughly, using soft soap and warm water on greasy and dirty spots.

To Bleach Cloth: Add the strained juice of 1 lemon to 1 qt. of cold water. Spread cloth on the grass in the sun. Wet it several times each day. Repeat until cloth is whitened.

To Drive Away Cockroaches: Cut up green cucumbers and at night put pieces in infested areas. Bois de arc apples will also aid in getting rid of these insects.

To Wash Cottons: Add a teaspoon of black pepper to the first suds to prevent colors from running. A handful of salt also fixes colors but does not prevent fading. Alum water is a sure fixative, but it sets grime as well as color.

To Make Disinfectants: (1) Heat an iron shovel until very hot and then pour vinegar upon it. Be sure doors and windows are open at the time. (2) Roast coffee until it is dark brown, pulverize it, and burn it on a shovel or sprinkle about the room.

To Wash and Cure Feathers: Wash feathers in warm soap suds and rinse in slightly blued water. Dry them in the wind. To recur, use a bone or silver knife to draw fibers of feathers between the thumb and the dull edge, working 3 fibers at a time. Begin at the point of the feather and curl sides in opposite directions.

To Keep a Room Free of Flies: Pour a little alcohol into saucers. Add a teaspoon of oil of lavender. Place a piece of clean sponge in each saucer.

To Clean Gilt Frames: Dust frames; then with a camel's hair brush, rub gently with the white of an egg to remove all dirt. To add luster to frame, add 1 ounce of soda to egg white.

To Clean and Polish Furniture: Mix 3 parts linseed oil with 1 part turpentine and apply with a woolen rag. This will both clean and give the wood a fine luster.

To Restore Furs: Sprinkle fur with hot flour and sand. Brush thoroughly with a hard brush; then beat with a stick or cane. Comb the wool with a wet comb and press carefully with a warm iron. For ermine, substitute plaster of paris for flour and sand.

To Prevent Cracking of Glass: Put lamp chimneys or light globes in a pot filled with cold water. Add a little cooking salt. Let the water boil well and then cool slowly.

To Clean Looking Glasses: Dampen a sponge with water or spirits of wine. Rub to remove every speck and stain. Dust surface with the finest sifted whiting or powder blue. Polish with silk handkerchief.

To Clean Marble: Make a paste of soft soap and whiting. Wash marble with it. Leave a coat of the paste

upon marble for two or three days; then wash off with warm water.

To Clean Oil Paintings: Wash the canvas with soft soap and warm water. Dry with a soft cloth. Then before a fire, rub the painting with a warm silk handkerchief.

To Clean Pewter: Make a paste of fine wood ashes mixed with vinegar and salt. Rub on generously and then rub off quickly.

To Clean Silk: Take equal quantities of alcohol or whiskey and soft soap made of wood ashes and molasses. Mix together; then rub on with a soft cloth. Rinse once or twice in clear water. Dry silk or wrap in a towel until ready to iron.

To Give Luster to Silver: Make a strong brine of alum dissolved in water. Skim carefully and then add soap. Apply with a linen cloth. Rub gently before rinsing.

To Clean Straw Matting: Use a cloth wet in clean salt and water and rub matting. Wipe dry immediately.

To Clean Wall Paper: Remove all dust with a soft cloth. Then mix flour and water into a stiff lump. Rub wall gently downward as far as arm will sweep. After going around the room, return and begin rubbing above that just completed. Do not cross the paper or rub upward.

To Make Watertight Shoe Soles: Warm a little beeswax and mutton suet until in a liquid state. Apply over all stitchings.

THE POTPOURRI JAR

Gather rose petals early in the morning and leave them in a cool airy place until the dew has evaporated. Place leaves in a large glass jar. Sprinkle salt over each one-half inch thick layer of petals. Continue adding in this manner until the jar is filled. Let stand for ten days. Stir thoroughly each day. Then mix together one ounce each of cloves, allspice, and stick cinnamon finely shredded. Transfer rose petals to another jar by mixing spices and petals in layers. Cover jar tightly and let it stand in a dark place for three or four weeks. The pourri will now be ready for its permanent jar, which must have a double cover.

Mix together in a bowl one-fourth ounce of mace and one-half ounce each of allspice and cloves, one-half of a grated nutmeg, one-half ounce of cinnamon, one ounce of powdered orris root, and one-fourth pound of dried lavender flowers. Transfer rose leaf mixture to the permanent container and mix the above in layers with the rose petals. As the jar is filled, scatter a few drops of essential oils of rose, geranium, bitter almond, and orange flower on each layer. Then pour one ounce of toilet water or cologne over entire mixture.

These contents will fill a two-quart jar and will keep for years. From time to time add sweet flowers such as tuberose, violets, or heliotrope. Open the jar for one-half hour daily, and the atmosphere of the home will be permeated with a delightful, spicy fragrance that can be imagined to come from an enchanted Arabian garden.

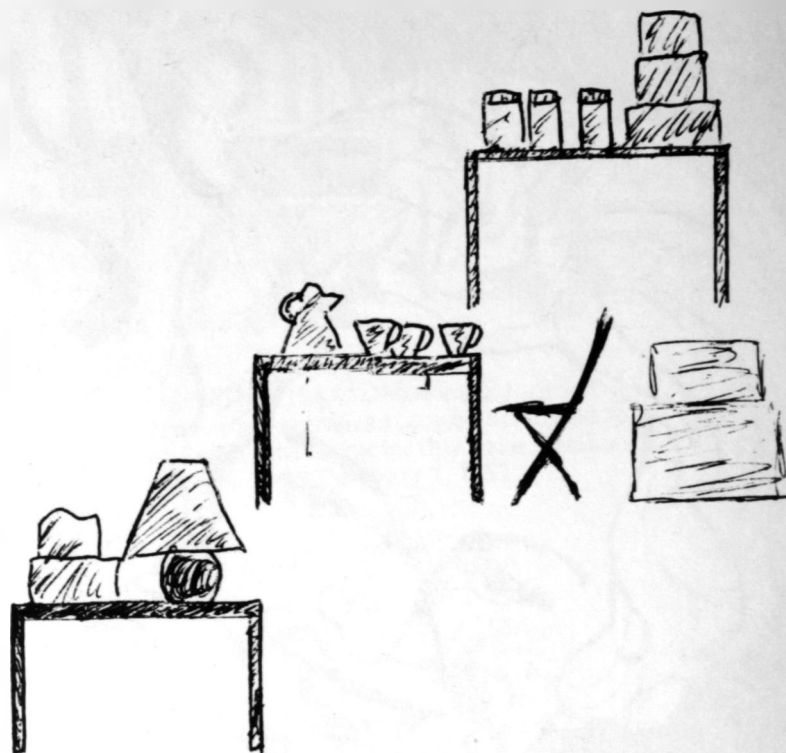


ILLUSTRATION BY MIKE TOAHY

