

Eight Alternative Uses for Flour

Most likely, if there is someone in the household who likes baking, there will be some flour in one of the kitchen cupboards. But are there any other uses that flour can be put to?



1. Cleaning a stainless steel sink

Adding a scoop of flour to your sink gives it a brilliant shine. After cleaning, sprinkle some flour on the surface and buff it up with a soft clean cloth. It is a harmless method of cleaning without the use of harsh chemicals etc.

2. Garden use

If you pour a line of flour around your plants, it will keep ants away. Also if you dust flour and a pinch of black pepper onto the soil around your perennials it will keep flies and other pests at bay.

3. Brass and copper polish

Make your own brass and copper polish by mixing a tablespoon of flour, a tablespoon of salt and a tablespoon of white vinegar into a paste. With a damp sponge, gently wipe the metal and leave to dry for a couple of hours. Then rinse with water and buff up with a soft clean cloth.

4. Extinguishing a grease fire.

When grease spills on your cooker burners, it is very possible that this can develop very quickly into a full blown fire. Before it gets out of hand, pour flour on the flames to extinguish the fire. It will smother the flames and works in a similar way to a powder fire extinguisher. However be warned, it is an effective solution but makes one hell of a mess!

5. Modelling clay

A cheap option when making modelling clay is to use flour. Use 3 cups of flour, 1 cup of water, ¼ cup of salt, 1 tsp vegetable oil and some drops of food colouring.

Knead all the ingredients together and it should result in a workable modelling paste. It is often a case of trial and error however - if the mixture is too dry then add water, if too wet then add more flour until the correct consistency is achieved. Store in sealable bowls.

6. Wallpaper paste

Shop bought packets of wallpaper paste nowadays come with all kinds of chemicals added. Back in the depths of time however, all that was required and used was a mixture of flour and water. For a pesticide free wallpaper paste recipe, go to

<http://www.care2.com/greenliving/wallpaper-paste.html>

7. Cleaning carpet spills

If you spill oil or grease on the carpet, a method to clean it is to pour flour on the spots and leave it to stand. After a period of time, the flour will have absorbed the oil/grease and then it is a case of vacuuming it up.

8. As an express shampoo

If you do not have time to wash your hair, then sprinkle in some flour and brush through thoroughly. This will get rid of oil and dandruff, but may well change your hair shade if you are not careful!