

# Clean It Green—For the Environment and Your Wallet!



## Homemade Laundry Soap



Are you looking to save money AND save the environment?

Many of you may have already started saving money by making your own laundry soap. If you haven't yet, you may want to look into trying this money saving, earth-friendly recipe! I know, I know, you don't have time to waste playing around with "experimental" things that don't work, but I promise this process is simple, easy, EXTREMELY cost effective, and it really does clean your clothes!

The making of the laundry soap takes approximately 30 minutes and each batch yields 66 loads of laundry. A cost analysis shows that each batch costs 73¢ cents—that equals ONE cent per load! Have you done the cost analysis on your store bought laundry detergent? I'm guessing your cost is anywhere between 10¢ and 25¢ per load. Now, doesn't ONE cent sound better?

I personally have been using this homemade laundry soap since October 2010 after attending a conference with one of my fellow FCS agents. Cathy Rogers, FCS Agent in the Suwannee County Extension office, introduced me to the homemade laundry soap idea and I can assure you, I will never go back to buying laundry detergent.

Cathy and I both have given samples out to MANY individuals and families. I asked everyone to please give me their honest opinion on how they like it and so far I've only heard positive statements. I even had one lady tell me that she has been using this recipe for years due to the cleaning abilities alone. She was a wife of a construction worker and the mother to five very active boys who love to get dirty and play ball. Her testimony alone sold me!

### Ingredients:

1 bar Ivory<sup>®</sup> OR 1/3 bar Fels Naptha<sup>®</sup> soap  
1/2 cup Arm & Hammer<sup>®</sup> washing soda  
1/2 cup Twenty Mule Team<sup>®</sup> borax powder  
2 gallons of water in gallon jugs

**Directions:** Grate the bar-soap into a cooking pot with 6 cups of hot water. Heat and stir until the soap melts. Add the washing soda and borax and stir until dissolved. Remove from heat. Pour 4 cups hot water into a clean bucket. Add the soap mixture from the pot. Stir. Add the remaining water and stir. Let the mixture sit for about 24 hours. It will gel slightly. This is a low-sudsing soap which removes dirt & odor. Great for front-loading washers. Shake before using. Use 1/2 cup or less per load.

Check out this instructional video by our friends in the Suwannee County Extension Office:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUe8J8i1i5M>

## Each load costs about one cent!

# CLEAN IT GREEN



## Cost Analysis— Homemade Laundry Soap

Wal-Mart, Macclenny Prices (January, 2013)

20 Mule Team Borax® \$3.38. 1/2 C = 36 batches @ .09 each

Arm & Hammer® Washing Soda \$3.24. 1/2 C = 12 batches @ .27 each

Ivory® Soap \$1.29/3 bars or Fels Naptha® \$.97/bar (use 1 full bar of Ivory® or 1/3 bar of FN) = 3 batches

@ .43 Ivory® or .32 Fels Naptha®

.09

.27

+.43

.79/batch

One batch = 66 loads

Initial Cost	
Borax	\$3.38
Washing Soda	\$3.24
Ivory® or FN	<u>\$1.29</u>
Subtotal	\$7.91
7% tax	<u>\$ .55</u>
Total	\$8.46

**Each load costs approximately one cent!**