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[Unusual Uses for Vodka](#)

by [Allegra Muzzillo](#), Posted Oct 6th 2010 11:00AM

Filed Under: [Unusual Uses](#), [Kitchen & Bath](#), [Essential Skills](#), [Know-How](#), [Outdoors](#)

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From cleaning jewelry to fighting stubborn stains, vodka has many handy uses -- other than pepping up your [Bloody Mary](#)! We've rounded up some [unusual ways](#) to put your bottom-shelf vodka to good use all around your house.



Vodka: not just for martinis anymore. Photo: Getty Images

Whether on the rocks, straight up or mixed in with your favorite cocktail, [vodka](#) has a reputation for being the life of the party. But make no mistake, this versatile spirit is more than just a one-trick pony. Thanks to its basic mixture of pure alcohol and water, vodka can be used as a strong household cleaner, pesticide and so much more. Bonus: it's a non-toxic alternative to many traditional products and chemicals.

[Use Vodka for Stain Removal](#)

Vodka can banish three of the most stubborn [fabric stains](#) known to man: ink, grass and lipstick. For ink and grass stains, dip a clean cloth in vodka and rub spot. Rinse thoroughly. Lipstick on your

collar? Blot stain with vodka, then launder in your regular [wash](#).



Getty Images

Use Vodka to Clean Mold and Mildew

Instead of using toxic chemicals, fill a spray bottle with vodka to kill mold and mildew and [knock out soap scum](#). On caulk and grout, spritz moldy areas and let sit for 30 minutes. Scrub area with an old toothbrush, tile/grout brush or nylon scouring-pad. Rinse thoroughly. For bathroom tiles, spray vodka and let sit for 5-10 minutes; then wash clean.



Getty Images

Use Vodka to Preserve Fresh Flowers

Plants all produce ethylene, a ripening gas that promotes maturation. Vodka stunts ethylene production, thereby helping flowers stay wilt-free longer. To keep store-bought [flowers](#) fresh, snip an inch off of each stem, add two teaspoons of vodka and one teaspoon sugar. Stir well and repeat this process every few days.

Use Vodka as a Chemical-Free Weed Killer

With help from the sun's heat, the alcohol content in vodka destroys unwanted broad-leaf weeds -- such as dandelions, chickweed and wild onion -- by breaking down their waxy-cuticle coverings. This action dehydrates and dries plants out. Remove weeds by filling a spray bottle with an ounce of vodka, several drops of liquid dish soap, and two cups of water. On a sunny day, spritz weeds with the solution until dripping wet.

Tip: Direct sunlight is needed for this technique to work, as weeds in the shade won't dry out.

Use Vodka as an Adhesive Remover

Remove the glue left behind by bumper stickers and price labels with a clean cloth soaked in vodka. Rub over the sticky area for easy removal.



Getty Images

Use Vodka to Clean Chrome, Glass and Jewelry

Vodka is effective at making dull bathroom fixtures, chandeliers, eyeglasses, windowpanes and even precious gemstones (only stones that are a crystal, such as diamonds) sparkle like new.

- **For chandeliers:** Moisten a clean [microfiber cloth](#) with vodka and rub over dusty surfaces. Alternatively, you can spritz the chandelier with a solution of one cup water and one teaspoon of vodka in a spray bottle. Lay a drop cloth on the floor to catch drips.
- **For chrome:** Soak a soft, clean cloth with vodka and shine.
- **For eyeglasses:** Dip a clean, lint-free cloth in vodka and rub each lens (back and front) until clear.

- **For jewelry:** Measure out one-fourth cup vodka in a shallow drinking glass or bowl. Drop in jewelry and let soak for 5-10 minutes. Rinse and dry. **Tip:** Do **NOT** clean pearls, opals and other porous stones via this method.

- **For windowpanes:** Mix one cup water and one teaspoon vodka in a spray bottle. Spritz on windows and wipe clean with paper towels or a clean microfiber cloth.

Use Vodka as an All-Natural Pesticide

Also known as plant lice, aphids are tiny soft-bodied insects that suck the nutrient-rich sap from the stems of plants. To keep aphids off of plants add four cups water, four teaspoons of dishwashing liquid and four teaspoons vodka in a large spray bottle. Shake well and spritz areas where you [spot infestations](#).

Use Vodka to Eliminate Odors

Vodka [eradicates foul stench](#)es -- and doesn't leave a scent when it dries. For an odorless air freshener, mix one part vodka with three parts water in a small spray bottle. Spritz area and let dry.

Have you tried any of these methods? What other household items have you found [unusual uses](#) for?

SEE ALSO:

[Out of Vodka? Beer Can Be Handy Too](#)

[Unusual Uses for Alka-Seltzer](#)

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10-08-2010 @9:23AM

[MikeG](#) said...

Add vodka to pie dough instead of water. Water makes the gluten in flour congeal – great when making bread but the enemy of pie crusts. The alcohol in the vodka evaporates quickly, adding to the effect that you want, i.e., to trap shortening between layers of dough to create flakiness.

Reply

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10-09-2010 @8:45PM

[Al Schrader](#) said...

I had this terrible clogged drain. Pour in some Vodka, cleans the pipes right out (no I didn't use it as a drain cleaner). Drink it only, use the correct product on each application. One part Vodka to one part liquid oxygen, is secret to Sputnik and Soyuz you darling you...Al-



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10-09-2010 @10:47PM

[Jay](#) said...

THANKS!! I never would have thought of that!



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10-07-2010 @7:36PM

[Kevin](#) said...

Don't most of these also just apply to alcohol in general? I know alcohol is the best way to get rid of permanent ink, for example.

[Reply](#)



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10-09-2010 @11:17PM

[Linda Vear](#) said...

Yes Kevin, but rubbing alcohol is poisonous due to the denaturing process. Vodka isn't. I make air freshener with Vodka and pure food grade essential oils, it is wonderful.



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10-09-2010 @8:10PM

[KayDf9](#) said...

I should think it would also take the hide off a crocodile.

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10-09-2010 @8:29PM

[cheryl](#) said...

Vodka is useful when dating a Coyote Ugly person!

[Reply](#)



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10-09-2010 @8:30PM

[Cheryl](#) said...

Vodka can be used when dating someone that is Coyote Ugly, Can make a frog into a prince etc.

[Reply](#)



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10-09-2010 @9:23PM

[inet](#) said...

Vodka is in several recipes I've seen for homemade antibacterial hand gel. But you're right, alcohol can be used the same way, and it's probably cheaper.

[Reply](#)



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10-09-2010 @9:24PM

[John](#) said...

When relatives come to visit, I drink several vodka screwdrivers. The ugly ones look better, and the rest sound better.

[Reply](#)



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10-09-2010 @10:52PM

[Jay](#) said...

LOL



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10-10-2010 @12:48PM

[Shirley](#) said...

I once found myself in a hotel where the bathroom didn't look too clean. I took our bottle of vodka and cleaned the toilet, toilet seat, sink and bathtub. The room looked and smelled 100% cleaner. My husband thought I was a genius.

[Reply](#)



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10-09-2010 @11:13PM

[Jerseyguy](#) said...

Great idea! Next time you buy vodka to imbibe tell your wife your not drinking, just killing the weeds in the yard. LOL.....

[Reply](#)



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10-09-2010 @11:37PM

[Cici](#) said...

my neighbors would think i was crazy, id be outside with one of those pesticide sprayers spraying the weed then spraying it in my mouth! :)

[Reply](#)



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10-10-2010 @1:37AM

[J.D.](#) said...

Does it matter what kind of Vodka is used?

[Reply](#)



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10-10-2010 @6:15PM

[FishWitchAlice](#) said...

We had a big thread on one of my Motorcylce forums about cleaning your helmet with VODKA!

I'd be worried if ever pulled over for speeding they my think the Vodka had gone to my head!

I'd rather put it over ice, or with cranberry juice, or tailgate bloody mary's, or.....

Ammonia is cheaper. Clean & leave go for a ride . Park ~Then enjoy. NEVER DRINK & RIDE OR DRIVE!!!!

[Reply](#)



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10-10-2010 @4:26AM

[JL.](#) said...

I need a stain remover that can remove oil or grease stain from clothing. Would vodka do the job?

[Reply](#)



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10-10-2010 @4:45AM

[Ross Wigwey](#) said...

The cheaper the better



[Vote up](#)[Vote down](#)[Report](#)

10-10-2010 @8:49PM

[Me](#) said...

To get out grease stains.. even set in ones.. pour a little Dawn dish detergent on it.. let it set for a few minutes then throw it in the wash. Dawn really gets out grease. It's saved a few shirts from the trash can.



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10-10-2010 @7:13PM

[Shirley](#) said...

Why wouldn't 70% alcohol work just as well as a cheap bottle of vodka?

See you Amway dealer about a can of prwash for the grease or oil on your clothing.

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The advertisement features a photograph of Kristan Cunningham, a woman with long dark hair wearing a plaid shirt, smiling. The text is arranged in a clean, sans-serif font, with the GMC logo in red and the Aol Living logo in black. The overall design is professional and promotional.

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