

Make Your Own Laundry Detergent

by Sandy Shields, TheFrugalShopper.com

Liquid Laundry Detergents

Recipe #1

3 Pints Water
1/3 Bar Fels Naptha Soap, Grated
1/2 Cup Washing Soda
1/2 Cup Borax
2 Gallon Bucket
1 Quart Hot Water
Cold Water

Mix Fels Naptha soap in a saucepan with 3 pints of water, and heat on low until dissolved. Stir in Washing Soda and Borax. Stir until thickened, and remove from heat. Add 1 Quart Hot Water to 2 Gallon Bucket. Add soap mixture, and mix well. Fill bucket with cold water, and mix well. Set aside for 24 hours, or until mixture is gelled. Use 1/2 cup of mixture per load.

Recipe #2

1 Cup Soap Flakes
1/2 Cup Washing Soda
1/2 Cup Borax
2 Tablespoons Glycerin
2 Cups Water

Mix all three ingredients together. Add glycerin and water. Use 1/2 - 3/4 cup per load. Best when used with cold or warm water.

Recipe #3

Water
1 Bar Soap - Any Brand, Grated
5 Gallon Bucket
1 Cup Washing Soda
4 1/2 Gallons Water

Place grated soap in a small saucepan and cover with water. Heat on low until dissolved. Fill bucket with hot water, and add soap. Stir to combine. Add 1 cup washing soda and mix well. As it cools it will thicken. May be used immediately. Use 1-2 cups per load.

Powdered Laundry Detergent

1 Cup Soap Flakes
1/2 Cup Washing Soda
1/2 Cup Borax

For light load, use 1 cup. For heavy or heavily soiled load, use 2 cups.

Tips

- Liquid detergent can also be used as a pretreater for stains.
- Deodorant Soaps and Beauty Bars can be substituted for regular bar soap.
- Essential Oils can be added to soap for fragrance.

Finding Ingredients

- Fels Naptha is in the bar soap aisle at your regular supermarket. I have found it in my area at Publix.
- Washing Soda is made by Arm & Hammer. It comes in a 55 ounce yellow box. This is not the same as baking soda. It is found in the laundry detergent aisle of your supermarket. If you are having trouble locating this product, you may want to ask your local store manager to order it for you. It may be helpful to provide the UPC number: 33200-03020. To see what the package looks like, click [here](#).
- Borax is usually found by these brand names: MULETEAM or BORATEEM. It is also found on the laundry detergent aisle.
- Ivory Snow used to make soap flakes, but I think that they have stopped making them. To make your own soap flakes just grate a bar of Ivory soap. (Hint: let your kids do this part!)

Comparing Prices (Approximate)

Fels Naptha Soap \$.90 - 1.00 per bar

Borax \$2.99 per box

Washing Soda \$1.99 per box

Each box of Borax and Washing Soda will yield 30 gallons of laundry soap mix. 5 bars of soap will yield 30 gallons. (Buy your soap on sale, and save even more!) It costs \$9.48 to make 30 gallons of homemade mix. That is approximately \$.30 per gallon! 1 gallon of pre-made, store-bought detergent can cost between \$4.00-\$7.00. If you normally pay \$5.00 per gallon, after making 30 gallons of your own mix, you will save \$141.00!!! Start saving today!

Also ... take a look at my HomeMade Laundry Softener and Stain Remover Recipes! They work well with the above laundry detergents and will also save you lots of money!

Sandy Shields is a freelance writer, homemaker, and publisher/owner of TheFrugalShopper.com and the [Frugal Living Solutions](http://FrugalLivingSolutions.com) websites. She enjoys living the good life for less, saving money, and helping others to do the same. Her passions are Biblical studies, lively discussion, and the internet.

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