

BEAUTY

Weak nails after a gel manicure

■ **SOLUTION:** Give them a quick soak: Mix equal parts apple cider vinegar and water in a small bowl, then soak nails for 5 minutes.

Rinse well, pat dry and massage cuticle oil or hand cream into nails and nail beds to help lock in moisture. Repeat once a week. Why it works: Apple cider vinegar is rich in minerals like potassium and magnesium that help nourish the nail plate for stronger, healthier nails. (Bonus: Its natural acids help lift surface residue and create an environment that's less hospitable to odor-causing bacteria and fungi, leaving your nails looking lovely.) Skip this trick if you have any cuts, irritation or peeling skin around your nails, as vinegar can sting.



CLEANING

Bathroom grout looks dingy

■ **SOLUTION:** After a hot shower, spray foam shaving cream along the grout lines. Let it sit for 10 minutes, then wipe clean with a damp cloth or old toothbrush. The foam clings to grout, giving it time to loosen buildup, while the alcohol in many formulas helps cut through mildew. Rinse well afterward so the tub isn't slippery.

DIY

Can't open a sealed jar

■ **SOLUTION:** Grab a small piece of plastic wrap, place it over the lid, then press your palm firmly on top and twist counterclockwise as usual.

The slightly tacky plastic adds extra grip between your hand and the smooth metal lid, giving you more traction and control, helping you get a better hold without straining. In seconds, the jar should pop open so you can enjoy the fruit, pickles or leftovers inside—even if your hands are damp, tired or a little slippery.



COOKING

Overcrowded kitchen counter

■ **SOLUTION:** Open a sturdy drawer, lay a dish towel over the top, then place a cutting board across it and close the drawer until the board feels secure. You'll have a handy spot for light prep, like slicing fruit, assembling sandwiches or setting down ingredients. Another space-saving trick: Place a large cutting board across the sink to create bonus workspace that can double as a drying rack for rinsed produce or dishes.

3 SMART WAYS TO PREP YOUR GARDEN FOR FALL



PRO TIPS

Lora
McLaughlin
Peterson

Lifestyle expert who shares hacks, tips and recipes on TV, in her book *The LORAfied Cookbook: Easy Recipes and Budget-Friendly Hacks to Feed the Whole Family* and on her site, Lorafied.com

When seeding

Use a clean, empty blueberry container or a cleaned-out jar of Parmesan cheese to sprinkle seeds in the soil. Both have holes built in, making the task a breeze, so you'll get consistent coverage in half the time it would normally take.

When planting

When you plant a flower bush, drop a banana peel in the hole before you add the plant. As the peel breaks down, it delivers potassium to the plant, which helps ward off a common fungus that damages blooms.

When weeding

Fill a spray bottle with three parts white vinegar to one part Castile soap, shake well and spritz on weeds. The vinegar kills unwanted plants on contact, while the soap helps the solution sink into the roots, ensuring the weeds won't return.