

PETS

My cat has been eating my indoor plants

■ **SOLUTION:** Combine 1 teaspoon of white vinegar with 2 cups of water in a spray bottle, then mist plants with the solution two times a week. The scent of vinegar is unbearably pungent to cats' sensitive noses, so your feline friend will steer clear. Bonus: Diluted vinegar can help repel ants and flies too. Also smart: Consider picking up cat grass at your local pet store and setting out a small pot near your plant—many cats will munch on that instead of your prized greenery.

BEAUTY

My perfume scent never lasts long

■ **SOLUTION:** Dab petroleum jelly on pulse points before spraying them with your perfume, says fragrance expert Leila Zagwolsky, cofounder of LUXSB (Luxury Scent Box). The occlusive jelly not only moisturizes the skin, ensuring your fragrance lasts longer, but since it sits on top of skin rather than sinking in, it acts like a magnet, grabbing onto molecules in the fragrance and ensuring your scent endures.



FASHION



Small scratches on my sunglasses

■ **SOLUTION:** Moisten lenses with water, then use a soft cloth to gently rub a pea-sized amount of white (nongel) toothpaste all over; rinse and wipe dry with a clean cloth. The paste's gentle abrasives remove smudges and small scratches, leaving the lenses looking like new.

CLEANING

Mineral deposits on the bathroom faucet

■ **SOLUTION:** Drop two denture-cleaning tablets into a cup of warm water. Soak a cloth in the solution, wrap it around the faucet and let it sit for 30 to 60 minutes. Next, scrub the faucet using an old toothbrush (great for precision scrubbing around tight spots like the base of the faucet or inside the spout) or a nonscratch sponge (ideal for larger areas or delicate finishes like chrome or brushed nickel), then rinse with warm water. Denture tablets contain effervescent cleaning agents that help dissolve buildup, making it easy to wipe mineral deposits right off.



PRO TIPS

from Lora McLaughlin Peterson

Lifestyle expert who shares everyday home, kitchen and life hacks on her site Lorafied.com.

How to thaw frozen meat—fast

Step 1:

Take the frozen meat out of its original packaging and place it in a plastic baggie. Make sure all the air is out before sealing. Next grab two large metal sauce pans.

Step 2:

Turn one pan upside down and set it on the kitchen counter. Place the frozen meat on top. Fill the other pan with warm water and place it on top of the meat.

Step 3:

Let sit for 30 to 60 minutes, depending on the weight and thickness of the meat. The metal conducts heat faster than air, ensuring the meat thaws in record time.