



**DECOR**

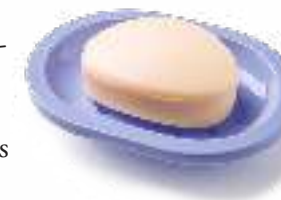
## Wilting flowers

■ **SOLUTION:** Wrap twist ties around the stems, then place flowers in an opaque vase. (Note: If you're displaying your bouquet in a clear vase, use green twist ties.) This keeps the stems together, helping the bouquet stand beautifully upright instead of splaying out or down. It also helps the arrangement look fuller and more polished with very little effort.

**GARDENING**

## Dirt stuck under your nails

■ **SOLUTION:** Before heading outside to garden, try this 2-second trick: Lightly scrape your fingernails across a bar of dry soap. The soap fills the space under your nails, acting as a barrier so dirt can't lodge there while you dig, plant or weed. When you're done gardening, simply wash your hands—the soap dissolves and rinses away along with any dirt that tried to sneak underneath, leaving your nails clean and presentable. Tip: Rubbing coconut oil into your nails and cuticles after washing keeps nails from becoming brittle.



**CLEANING**

## Build-up in the air fryer

■ **SOLUTION:** Skip the scrubbing! Fill the air fryer basket with hot water, open a dishwasher pod and pour the powder in the water. Set the basket in the air fryer and run it at 350° for 5 minutes. Carefully dump the water and wipe the basket with a sponge. Dish detergents boast powerful grease-cutting enzymes to break down baked-on food.

**PESTS**

## Fleas in the carpet

■ **SOLUTION:** Make a DIY powder to eliminate any flea larvae left dormant in your carpet over the winter. To do: In a jar with a shaker top, mix 4 Tbsp. of borax, 6 Tbsp. of salt, 6 Tbsp. of baking soda and 30 drops of lavender essential oil. Shake well and sprinkle over the carpet; let sit overnight, then vacuum. Repeat weekly for a month. The borax and baking soda kill fleas, the salt dries out eggs and the lavender repels new pests. Note: Spot-test first to ensure the essential oil doesn't damage the carpet.



**DIY**

## Torn lace tablecloth

■ **SOLUTION:** Place a piece of wax paper behind the hole and brush clear nail polish over the spot. Let dry completely, then remove the paper. The polish creates a flexible polymer seal that bonds the fibers together and prevents the rip from spreading. For extra strength, apply a second coat once the first is dry. The repair dries clear, keeps delicate lace from fraying and saves you from replacing a sentimental piece.

## POLLEN-PROOF YOUR BACKYARD



**PRO TIPS**  
from Lora McLaughlin Peterson

Lifestyle expert and television host who shares how to live a fabulous life for less. Find everyday home, kitchen and life hacks on her site LORAFied.com.

**Remove**

Wet pollen can stain, so instead of just wiping it away, which can end up leaving marks on fabric, reach for lint rollers, wide strips of packing tape and leaf blowers. All work wonders to pick up or eliminate pollen.

**Wash**

Mix 1 gallon of warm water with ¼ cup of dish soap, like Dawn. Then, simply dampen a microfiber cloth with the solution and use to wipe down outdoor surfaces, from cushions and umbrellas to glass and metal.

**Prevent**

Mix 1 Tbsp. of liquid fabric softener with 2 cups of water in a spray bottle. Lightly mist outdoor seat cushions and let dry. Softener leaves behind a light anti-static coating that helps keep pollen from clinging to fabric.

Courtesy of LORAFied; Getty (3)