

DIY

Paint drips follow you everywhere

■ **SOLUTION:** Hot-glue a sturdy paper plate to the bottom of the can. (Stack two plates for even more protection.) The plate travels with the can, catching stray drips before they land on the floor. When you're done, simply peel it off and toss.

AROUND-THE-HOUSE

Hand soap runs out too fast

■ **SOLUTION:** Slip a thick rubber band around the pump stem so it can't be pressed all the way down. The simple stopper dispenses a smaller amount of liquid soap with each pump, helping your supply last longer, and saving you money. Just be sure to use enough soap to thoroughly lather your hands.

Tip: This genius trick works on lotion, shampoo and conditioner pumps too—and it's especially handy for pricey products you want to stretch.



PETS

Fido's coat looks dull

■ **SOLUTION:** Give his coat a quick brush. Regular brushing whisks away loose fur, dirt and dead skin cells and distributes the natural oils from Fido's skin along each hair shaft, helping his coat look shinier. Aim to brush a few times a week, or more often for long-haired pups. And don't overdo bath time. Bathing too often can strip away the oils that keep your dog's skin and coat healthy.



CLEANING

Mopped floors dry with cloudy streaks

■ **SOLUTION:** After mopping, wrap a clean, dry microfiber cloth around the mop head and give the floor one final pass. The cloth picks up excess cleaner and moisture before they can dry into a dull film. This is especially helpful on sealed hardwood floors and laminate, where too much liquid can cause damage.

FOOD

Raw onions taste too sharp

■ **SOLUTION:** Reach for a sweet onion, such as Vidalia, Walla Walla or Maui, if available. These varieties contain less sulfur, giving them a milder, sweeter bite. Or consider picking up white onions, which are generally milder than yellow or red onions and work especially well in salsa and guacamole. Still too pungent? Soak the chopped onion in ice water for 10 minutes, then drain and pat dry. The quick soak helps mellow its sharp bite without sacrificing crunch.



SMART SAVES FOR FASHION EMERGENCIES



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

Can't reach a dress zipper

Slide a safety pin through the zipper tab and place a belt buckle inside the safety pin as well. Close the safety pin, place the belt over your shoulder and pull up on the belt to close the zipper.

Jeans are too big in the waist

Loop a small piece of ribbon through two back belt loops and secure it to cinch the jeans. You can also extend a pair of pants by looping an elastic hair tie through the button hole, then looping it around the button for extra room.

Turn a bra into a racerback

Bring the bra straps together between your shoulder blades and hook them together with a sturdy paper clip so they stay hidden beneath tops that show your back and shoulders.