PRINTABLE RECIPE • HAND WASHING ONLY

Homemade Dish Soap

A simple, low-cost dish liquid made with liquid Castile soap. It cuts everyday grease, rinses clean, and takes about 15 minutes to make - no harsh chemicals and no long ingredient list.



About 500 ml	15 minutes	2-3 weeks	Hand wash
MAKES	PREP TIME	USE WITHIN	NOT FOR DISHWASHER

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups (360 ml) distilled water, warm
- 1/2 cup (120 ml) liquid Castile soap
- 1 tablespoon washing soda
- 1 teaspoon vegetable glycerin (optional, for extra bubbles and softer hands)
- 10-15 drops lemon or tea tree essential oil (optional, for scent)

You Will Need

- A clean pump or squeeze bottle, about 500 ml
- A jug or large measuring cup
- A spoon or small whisk
- A funnel
- A label and pen

Good to know: This is a gentle everyday dish liquid for washing by hand. It makes fewer bubbles than shop-bought washing-up liquid - fewer bubbles does not mean it is cleaning less.

Step-by-Step Method

1. **Warm the water.** Pour the warm distilled water into the jug. Warm - not boiling - water helps the washing soda dissolve fully.
2. **Dissolve the washing soda.** Stir in the washing soda until the water looks clear and no grains remain at the bottom.
3. **Add the Castile soap slowly.** Pour the liquid Castile soap in a thin stream, stirring gently. Stir, do not whisk hard - hard whisking creates foam that is difficult to bottle.
4. **Add the extras.** Stir in the glycerin and essential oil, if using, until evenly mixed.
5. **Bottle and rest.** Use the funnel to pour the mixture into your bottle. Leave it to rest for 12-24 hours - it may thicken slightly as it settles.
6. **Label it.** Write "Homemade Dish Soap" and the date you made it on the label. Shake gently before each use if it separates.

How to Use It

- Put 1-2 pumps on a wet sponge, or add a small squirt to a sink of hot water.
- Wash glasses first, then plates and cutlery, and greasy pans last.
- For baked-on grease, soak the pan in hot water with a squirt of the soap for 15-20 minutes before washing.
- Rinse with clean hot water and leave dishes to air-dry on a rack.

For extra shine on glasses: Rinse with a splash of white vinegar in the rinse water. Keep vinegar in the rinse only - do not mix vinegar into the soap bottle, because vinegar breaks down Castile soap and leaves a white film.

Safety and Storage Checklist

- [ ] Hand washing only - never use this in a dishwasher; it can over-foam and leak.
- [ ] Label the bottle clearly with the name and the date made.
- [ ] Keep out of reach of children and pets.
- [ ] Do not mix with bleach or other cleaners.
- [ ] Do not add vinegar to the bottle - use it only in rinse water.
- [ ] Stop using it if it causes skin irritation; wear gloves if you have sensitive skin.
- [ ] Store in a cool place away from direct sunlight.
- [ ] Make a small fresh batch every 2-3 weeks; discard any leftovers after that.
- [ ] Test on delicate, painted or hand-painted dishes on a small area first.

Notes