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Welcome!

Amazing Tips to Make You Smarter is an offbeat resource that's sure to make you the smartest person in the room...or at least one of the most interesting. Where else can you find the answers to such riveting questions as how to keep a pot from boiling over, how to keep ants out of your house, the best way to remove a splinter, what “Finger Lickin' Good” means in Chinese, and how long it would take to drive to the sun?

You’ll find invaluable information on food, school, work, travel, money...helpful tidbits that will solicit an “Oh yeah, why didn’t I think of that?” response. You’ll actually feel your brain expanding as you read. (Not really, but you will feel smarter with every page.) So get to it, start digging, and have fun. Who knows? You might be the only person at your office who knows why there are two golf balls on the moon.
Helpful Household Hints

Have you ever thought there's got to be a better place to hide your wallet at the beach than in the toe of your shoe? And how would you like a surefire way to keep your car's cup holders clean all the time? Check out this list of helpful household hacks, guaranteed to make your life easier and more efficient.

- Bathroom mirror all fogged up? Clear it up with the hair drier.
- Use toothpaste to clean hazy headlights.
- Use a bread tab to hold your place on a roll of masking tape.
- Use a rubber band around an open can of paint to wipe your brush on. That way the sides of the can won’t get messy.
• Put a nylon stocking over the end of a vacuum hose to find small items, such as lost earrings.

• Sprinkle cinnamon and cayenne pepper around the edge of your house to prevent ants from coming in. You might also consider planting lavender outside—ants don’t like it.

• Have a little fender bender? Try some Red Bull energy drink to remove paint that came off the other car.

• Apply mud to a bee sting. This will help remove the stinger and ease the pain.

• Use dryer fabric sheets as dust rags. They pick up dust much better than cloth does.

• If your little Picasso has used the wall for his crayon artwork, just dip a damp rag in baking soda to clean it off. You’ll have to work at it, but it works.
At Your Fingertips

Use an old spice rack for nail polish and beauty supplies in your bathroom.
• Place your candles in the freezer for at least two hours before you light them. They’ll last much longer.

• Next time you get a splinter, place Scotch tape over it and gently pull. The adhesive should take the splinter right out.

• To make your carpets smell fresh, sprinkle some baking soda over them, let it sit for about an hour, and then vacuum.

• Before you clean your toilet, pour a can of Coke into it and let it sit for a couple of hours. The acid in the Coke will get rid of most of the stains!

• When you need to fill some nail holes in your wall, gently rub a bar of white soap against the hole until it’s filled in. The soap works as a quick Spackle.

• Use a fitted sheet to cover your box spring.

• Wear a rubber glove when you’re trying to open a jar and need extra grip.

• If you get a small burn on your skin, spread a little mustard on it to soothe the pain.

• To get rid of snails and slugs, place some boards in the garden overnight. In the morning, the slugs will be congregated on
the bottom side, and you can toss them in your neighbor's yard. (Kidding about the neighbor's yard!)

• Keep pictures straight on the wall by placing some double-sided tape in the bottom corners on the back.

• In a hurry to childproof your home? Stick Band-Aids over low, unused electrical sockets.

• Try sprinkling a little talcum powder on a squeaky wooden floor. Use a small brush to get it in between the cracks. That should get rid of the squeak.

• Stick cupcake papers in your car's cup holders to keep them clean.

• Use a plastic cereal container as a trash bin inside your car.

• Clean your blender by filling it about halfway with warm water. Add a drop of dish soap and then run it. Rinse and dry—all clean!

• Clean your cheese grater with a pastry brush.
Hiding Place

Keep your keys, phone, sunglasses, and purse or wallet in the same place so you won't spend valuable time searching for them every morning. (Some estimate that we spend a year of our life searching for lost items. Don't become a statistic.)
• Next time you’re packing some damp shoes into your suitcase, put them in a shower cap (your hotel will likely provide one). That will keep the rest of your belongings dry.

• When stopping at the drive-through with your kids, put their meals in plastic arts-and-crafts baskets. The food fits perfectly, the baskets are super easy to clean, and you won’t have ketchup and fries all over the backseat.

• If you have trouble keeping your kids’ clothes straight on laundry day, use a permanent marker to place small dots on the labels—one for your oldest, two for the next oldest, and so on.

• To get rid of fish odor in the kitchen, mix 3 tablespoons of white vinegar in 1 cup of water and boil for several minutes. That should take care of it. You can also try adding 1 or 2 tablespoons of lemon juice to the pan.

• Put an open box of baking soda in your refrigerator to absorb unwanted odors. Change it out every three months.

• To keep your drains clog-free, squirt some liquid dish detergent down your drain, let it sit for 30 minutes, and
then run hot water for several seconds. Do this once a week.

• If you’re running out of room for towels in your bathroom cabinet, roll them and put them in a nice basket on the floor near the bathtub or shower.

• Got an outdated decal on your car window? Soak it with a baby wipe for a few minutes, and it should come off just fine.

• If your workout T-shirts have yellow stains under the arms, crush up an uncoated aspirin and mix it into warm water. Let this mixture sit on the stain for a few hours and wash as usual. The stains should be gone!

• If you feed your animals outside, place their bowl in the middle of a pan of water to prevent ants from getting into their food.

• If you’re having trouble getting your kids to put their dirty clothes in the laundry, place a small basketball hoop over the laundry hamper in their room. That way they can practice
Shoes Go Here
Mount coat hooks where kids enter the house the most often. Hang up their shoes!
their three-pointers with their T-shirts, socks, and sweats.

- To save space under your sink, hang spray bottles by their handles from a tension rod.

- Cut holes in a small box and make your own ribbon dispenser.

- To get rid of odors in plastic food containers, stick some crumpled black-and-white newspaper inside, let it sit overnight, and wash the container in the morning.

- Polish copper with a thin coat of ketchup.

- To help cut down on ozone emissions when you get gas, fill up your
tank after dark. The emissions interact with the sun, so you lower the effect when you get gas at night.

• To help your entire family with their cleanup chores, assign a color-coded plastic basket for each family member to stash their stuff.

• Dust your lamp shades with an unused paintbrush.

• Try using a baby wipe to clean off dirty shoes.

• To get tough stains off the inside of a glass vase, fill the vase with water and drop in two Alka-Seltzer tablets.

• Try a mixture of Mountain Dew and water in a vase to keep roses fresh.

• When storing plates, place a clean coffee filter between each one to prevent scratching and chipping.

• After painting a room, place a couple of bowls of vinegar in the room to help absorb the smell.