

REALSIMPLE

| LIFE MADE EASIER |

THE ULTIMATE HOLIDAY PLANNER

- FEATURING:**
- do-it-yourself centerpieces
 - sanity-saving checklists
 - make-ahead recipes
 - easy, speedy cleaning
 - best wines under \$20
 - winter skin care 101

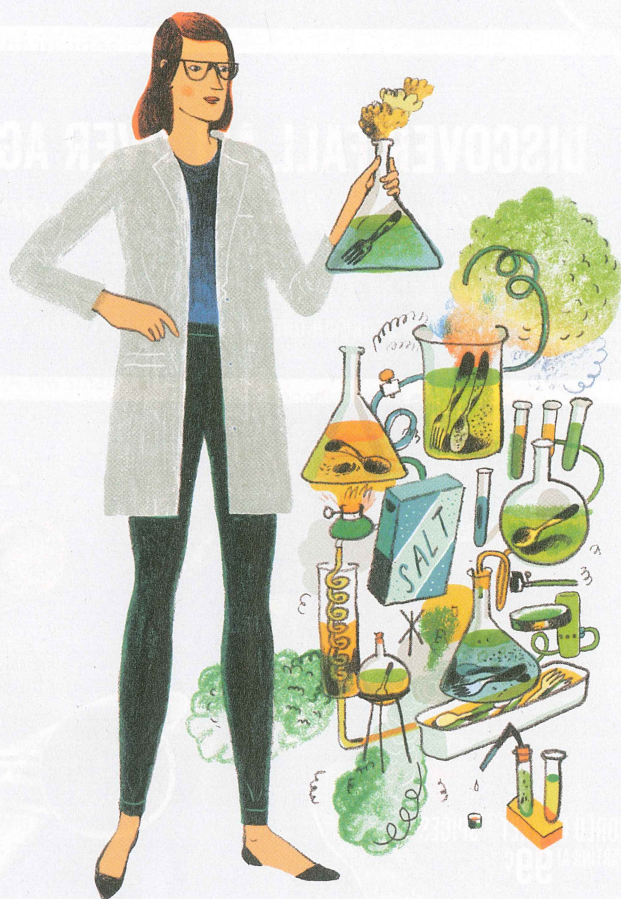
\$4.99US \$5.99CAN
realsimple.com



74470 10350 9
NOVEMBER 2014

now what?!?

SMART SOLUTIONS FOR LIFE'S LITTLE DISASTERS



“My silver forks and spoons are black with tarnish.”

Penny Dash, via e-mail

THE FIX: Rinse flatware in warm water to remove dust, then apply Blitz Silver Shine Polish (\$8, blitzinc.com) to a moist sponge and rub each piece, using a straight up-and-down motion, says Jeffrey Herman, the owner of Herman Silver Restoration & Conservation, in Rhode Island. Continue until the buildup is gone. (Bonus tip: Use flattened cotton swabs to get in between fork tines.) Rinse in warm water and dry with a cotton cloth. “Avoid chemical dips as well as homegrown methods involving baking soda or toothpaste. They produce instant results but usually scratch,” says Herman. To give your hard work staying power, store clean flatware in a drawer wrapped in sulfur-absorbing cloth (like Pacific Silvercloth; \$23 a yard, silverguard.com). When a piece forms a yellow tint, the first sign of tarnish, clean it with a moist sponge and a couple of drops of citrus-free Dawn dishwashing liquid, rinse with warm water, and dry.



“I blew my nose so much that it’s chapped and red. What will make it look and feel better?”

Claire, via e-mail

THE FIX: Upgrade to pre-moistened saline wipes (like Puffs Fresh Faces; \$5, shop.boogiewipes.com). “They cause less friction than dry tissues,” says Mary Lupo, a dermatologist in New Orleans. To guard against inflammation, take lukewarm (not hot) showers and wash your face with cool water and a gentle cleanser. (Try Cetaphil Gentle Skin Cleanser; \$12, cvs.com.) Follow with an emollient face lotion (like CeraVe Moisturizing Cream; \$15 at drugstores). To hide a Rudolph nose, slather on nourishing argan oil (such as Josie Maran 100% Pure Argan Oil; \$48, sephora.com), says Gretta Monahan, the author of *Style and the Successful Girl*. Once the oil has been absorbed, dot cream concealer down the bridge of your nose to the tip and blend toward the corners of the nostrils and, if necessary, above the lips. Finish with a moisturizing translucent powder. (Try Estée Lauder Re-Nutriv Intensive Smoothing Powder; \$55, estelauder.com.) You’ll look fresh, not feverish.

“I have heat spots on my wood table. Any cure other than refinishing?”

Jill Austin Brega, via Facebook

THE FIX: For fresh spots (created within the last couple of hours), try this quick trick: Aim a hair dryer set on low to medium at the area from a foot away for a minute, says Christophe Pourny, a furniture restorer in New York City and the author of *The Furniture Bible*. This could evaporate the moisture trapped in that layer of finish, which is what causes those white, cloudy spots. To tackle older stains, apply a layer of tung oil (like Sutherland Welles Tung Oil Sealer; \$35, garrettwade.com) to the stains, let stand for 10 to 15 minutes, then wipe off. If you don’t want to go through the hassle of ordering online, apply a thin layer of mayonnaise to the area for one to two minutes. The oil from the mayo may clear up the cloudy areas. No luck? Time to bring in a pro.



Have a disaster that needs solving? E-mail your problem to askrealsimple@realsimple.com.