

START A TOTALLY DEAD CAR!
and save on towing fees

THE FAMILY Handyman

#1 in DIY Home Improvement

Super simple
garage storage

**BUILD A 1-DAY
WORKBENCH**

**Treat yourself!
Build a bar**

**CLEANING UP
PET MESSES**

**Garage door
facelift**

**BEST IN DIY:
MECHANIC'S
TOOL SETS**

September 2012

familyhandyman.com

\$3.99 U.S.



**ANNUAL
GARAGE
SPECIAL**

MY LOVE AFFAIR CONTINUES

I've written before about how much I love using Acid Magic for removing rust from sinks, toilets and showers. Well, I obviously have lots of iron in my well water—the latest evidence is that all our ground-level windows had a reddish tint from the sprinklers. I had no idea how to remove it until I thought of Acid Magic again. I brushed it on with a paintbrush and the rust instantly dissolved and ran down the glass.

If you have other mineral deposits in your water, I'm certain it'd take care of them, too. You can buy it by the gallon for about \$9 at Ace and some other hardware stores.

Travis Larson, Senior Editor



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Don't kill yourself! Avoid the hidden dangers of DIY
Cure the top backyard headaches

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Pergola

**Make shade
for your
summer
fun!**

March 2011
familyhandyman.com

*3.99 U.S.

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Power failure?

A generator will save your a
—if you use it safely!**

Avoid 4 common car care scams



A safer substitute for muriatic acid

Muriatic (aka hydrochloric) acid is a fantastically cheap, effective way to remove rust stains and etch concrete to prep it for epoxy, to name just a few uses. But the fumes can be harmful, and skin burns are a real threat. There is a safer substitute called Acid Magic. It is just as effective but with 90 percent less fumes and no skin burns! That's because it's made from hydrochloric acid that's been "buffered," which prevents it from attacking proteins—like those in your skin. Although 80 percent of the Acid Magic sold is used for cleaning pools and filters, you can use it for lots of other stuff. Rust stains on sinks, toilets and tubs, concrete and tile disappear almost instantly. In fact, you can use it for nearly anything muriatic acid is used for. If I owned this company, I'd call it Acid Miracle. It's sold by or can be ordered from Ace/True Value hardware stores. Or go online and order some from spadepot.com. It costs about \$7 for a quart or \$9 for a gallon. Read all about it at certol.com.



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Say good-bye to ANTS forever!

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Backyard Problem Solvers

Solutions for

- Dead grass spots
- Invasive plants
- Rotting fences
- Noisy air conditioners
- and more!

Budget Paths

that won't break the bank

March 2009

thefamilyhandyman.com

\$3.99 U.S.



MONEY-SAVING FIXES
Water heater; Vacuum cleaner;
Dashboard light

Over
\$870
in money-saving
ideas inside!

Don't call a
plumber!
Replace an old
toilet yourself

Concrete table
No upkeep, two days to
build, and dirt cheap!



**Tough but safe
heavy-duty cleaner**

Heavy-duty cleaners like muriatic acid can be dangerous to work with, harmful to the environment and hard to find. Certol's Acid Magic (\$7 for 32 ozs.) is a much safer alternative that won't burn your skin. (Check out the cool video on the company's Web site that shows Acid Magic dissolving an eggshell without harming the yolk or the bare hand holding it.)

Of course we were skeptical, so we tried it on the rustiest toilet we've ever seen. Acid Magic cleaned it with ease. Then we poured the cleaner in a bucket of water at a 3-to-1 ratio and soaked some rusty tools in it. The tools were clean in a couple of hours without any scrubbing.

You can use Acid Magic wherever you'd use muriatic acid. It cleans masonry surfaces, etches concrete for staining, and maintains the pH and alkalinity in swimming pools. Acid Magic is available at True Value and Ace hardware stores (you may have to special-order it).

Certol, (800) 843-3343. certol.com