

Dirty Mail Boxes

A member of the community asked me to do an article on cleaning mailboxes. Well, with all the pollen and spores floating around and the fact that our mailboxes are getting old, they don't look so good anymore. Before you buy a new one, try this.

The first way to kill black mold is by using chemicals. Do this by using such house-cleaning chemicals as bleach, ammonia, Borax or vinegar. Bleach is the strongest of all the chemicals.

Vinegar is also a natural way of killing mold and mildew, although it smells it only lasts a few



hours. White distilled vinegar kills 82 percent of mold, so just adding straight vinegar into a bottle and spray directly on the problem area without rinsing will quickly kill the mold. Spray grass or plants with water before beginning. This worked, but not as good as the bleach solution below. Wear rubber gloves while performing this project.

Combine a half cup of bleach, one cup of water and a tablespoon of liquid dish soap and apply to all areas with mold and dirt. Allow it to sit for about 15 minutes and spray the entire area again. Scrub the area with a hard, brush-style scrubber. Scrub and wash all surrounding areas, and rinse with the hose.



I found this to work on the mail box and the post although it takes a little more scrubbing on the post. Rinse well with the hose including the surrounding grass. A power washer works very good



on the post if you or neighbor has one.



Another tip. I was washing my windows with vinegar in a spray bottle when I sprayed some on the vinyl frames. When I wiped it off with paper towels the gray spots and dirt came off. Even some of those black dots came off! The frames came out like new. I used to use newspaper to wipe the windows as my mother taught me but I don't get them anymore because the news is so depressing. Now I read the paper towels, very calming.

Yet another tip. I installed a new television with a wall bracket in the kitchen for my wife. When I was done the wires from the cable box, the DVD player and the power cords were all visible and obvious. I went to Staples, bought a mailing tube, painted it the color of my wall and slit it long ways. I stuffed the wires in it and now you can barely notice anything as it is hardly visible.

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