

Find a SIMPLE SOLUTION

Let us take the pressure off with our no-fuss cleaning tips, great buys and solutions to your home-related queries

For where to buy items shown, turn to page 216

Q Our cat is clawing our leather sofa.

How can I stop him?

*Jeannie Fletcher,
Gloucestershire*

Place scratching posts around the room (from £4.99 each, Pets at Home) to encourage your cat to scratch elsewhere. Also, temporarily stick double-sided tape over the area he's scratching – he won't like the texture and it might put him off. Every week, use a citrus spray in the area, such as the Fresh Citrus Room Spray, £6 for 50ml, The Japanese Shop. Cats dislike the smell of citrus fruits and tend to avoid areas saturated with this scent. You could also try to train the cat by spraying him with a bit of water whenever he scratches the sofa.

STAR LETTER



Cat scratching your beautiful sofa? Try a citrus scent to keep it away

ASK IDEAL HOME

Email your household questions to ideal_home@ipcmedia.com or write to us at Ideal Home, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU

Q I like to keep vegetable peelings and kitchen waste for the compost heap, but a bucket by the sink looks horrible and soon smells. What's a good solution?

Andrea Woods, Leeds



Biodegradable paper compost bag, £4.49 for 10, Burgon & Ball

We love these biodegradable paper compost bags, £4.49 for 10 from Burgon & Ball. They look so stylish, you won't mind having them out on display, and the bag itself is compostable so you won't have to clean a smelly container. For something more permanent, head to Store for the Tea Bag & Compost Mini Bin, £10. It's small enough to sit on a worktop and the removable swing-lid prevents odours from escaping.

FEATURE ELLIE TENNANT
PHOTOGRAPHS IPC IMAGES

WIN an AEG-Electrolux vacuum

Send us your questions for a chance to win a prize.

This month, our star letter writer, Jeannie Fletcher, wins a fantastic UltraOne vacuum cleaner from AEG-Electrolux, worth £299. It has received top scores for performance in independent tests, is easy to manoeuvre and super-quiet, too. Visit aeg-electrolux.co.uk for more details.



Q My dishwasher smells dreadful when I open the door and sometimes when it's on, too. Help!

Karen Peterson, York

First take out removable parts, like the cutlery basket, and scrub them with an old toothbrush in a bowl of warm water and washing-up liquid. Next, use a damp cloth to wipe the door seal – another area where smelly mould can build up. Run the machine with a product such as Finish Dishwasher Cleaner (£3.80 for 250ml, Sainsbury's) every three months. Finally, every week run the machine empty on a very hot wash with half a lemon in the top drawer.



Tackle a smelly dishwasher with a bit of scrubbing and half a lemon