

## **HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT (34) CALGON AND WASHING SODA**

**There are several cleaning agents in the supermarket that may confuse you about how to use it. The cleaning agents may indicate its usefulness on the packaging but it is important to know more about the agent in order to use it properly. It is also important to know what drawbacks these products have and the limitations on some fabrics. It is not my intention to sway you either way on whether to use these agents but only to give you more facts so you can make a sound decision. Calgon and Washing Soda are two agents that are used effectively for hard water. Hard water contains dissolved impurities such as calcium and magnesium salts. Many synthetic detergents lose their efficiency in hard water and in some cases impurities and detergents remain on washed fabrics causing a graying to the fabric.**

### **CALGON**

**I found Calgon in Publix Supermarket in the detergent section. A main ingredient in Calgon is sodium hexametaphosphate which is used to prevent insoluble residue forming on fabrics from hard water. It can also remove impurities caused from residue of detergents and other impurities. It is very easy to test whether you have insoluble residue on fabrics.**

- (1) Fill the washing machine with warm water.**
- (2) Add Calgon as directed by manufacturer but do not add detergent.**
- (3) Add fabrics to the washing machine and run through on a normal cycle.**

**Observe inside the washing machine for any sudsing and foaming. If you have any foaming it means the Calgon is removing insoluble detergent from the fabrics since Calgon does not cause foaming. If no sudsing occurs then it is not likely that you have detergent or other impurities on your fabric. It is also important to note that Calgon is not highly alkaline. If Calgon is used with detergents dissolve Calgon in the water first before adding detergent.**

### **WASHING SODA**

**Washing soda is also found in the supermarket. Washing soda is sodium carbonate and is highly alkaline in nature. The manufacturer states that Washing Soda is highly effective in removing many tough stains such as oil, grease and others. This is true since the high alkalinity of the product increases the cleaning action of any detergent. Washing Soda is also used to soften water which precipitates the impurities. The downside to using Washing Soda is its safety to fabrics. It will bleed deep, dark, red and other vivid colors on many fabrics. It is also hazardous on wool, silk, angora and cashmere. It can never be used with household bleach or sodium**

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**hypochlorite. It will decompose household bleach causing emissions of harmful fumes. It also should not be used with color safe bleaches which are alkaline in nature. When using Washing Soda make sure that you dilute it in the water before adding the clothes to the washing machine. Consider the risks, the benefits and exercise caution and sound judgment.**