



# GREEN CLEANING

## What is Green Cleaning?

Green cleaning is an alternative to conventional cleaning products. Green cleaning protects health and the environment, is safer for humans and animals, and improves indoor air quality. You can make your own green cleaners or look for products that are:

- non-toxic
- biodegradable
- phosphate-free
- bleach-free
- dye-free
- petroleum-free
- made from renewable resources
- Green Seal or Design for the Environment certified

## Green Cleaning Numbers

- **17,000:** the number of petrochemicals available for home use, of which only 30 percent have been tested for exposure to human health and the environment.
- **63:** the number of synthetic chemical products found in the average American home, translating to roughly 10 gallons of harmful chemicals.
- **100:** the number of times higher that indoor air pollution levels can be above outdoor air pollution levels, according to U.S. EPA estimates.
- **275:** the number of active ingredients in antimicrobials that the EPA classifies as pesticides because they are designed to kill microbes.

## Disposal of Old Cleaning Products

Don't just throw your old products down the drain or in the trash. Instead, consider using up your existing cleaners, then replacing them with greener products. For unusable products, call your county household hazardous waste collection center for proper disposal information.

# GREEN CLEANERS

## Make Your Own

### All Purpose Cleaner

1/2 teaspoon sodium carbonate (soda ash)

Dab of liquid soap

2 cups hot water

Combine in a spray bottle; shake until all powder is dissolved.

Apply and wipe off residue with a rag or sponge.

### Glass Cleaner

1 gallon water

1/2 cup white vinegar

1/2 teaspoon liquid dish detergent

### Furniture Polish

1 cup vegetable or olive oil

1/2 cup lemon juice

Mix in spray bottle; shake well; apply small amount to a cloth.

### Drain Cleaner

Pour 1/2 cup baking soda down the drain, followed by 1/2 cup vinegar. Cover the drain and allow to sit for 15 minutes. Flush with 2 quarts boiling water.

### Mold Killer

2 teaspoons tea tree oil

2 cups water

Combine in spray bottle. Shake to blend. Spray on problem areas. Do not rinse.

## Microfiber Cloths

Cloths made of microfiber completely remove dust, and when used alone or with a little water do not leave a chemical film or streaks behind. You can clean and polish surfaces in one action, picking up more than 97 percent of the dust and other materials containing microbes, pollen and mold.

Prolong the life of your microfiber by rinsing in water or washing in regular soap. Do not use fabric softeners or powdered detergents, which reduce the effectiveness of the cloth.