

A graphic on the left side of the page shows a green leaf with a water droplet falling from it, set against a blue circular background with wavy lines and a larger water droplet. The text "GREEN CLEANING" is written in large, bold, black letters across the top of the page, with the "GREEN" part overlapping the graphic.

GREEN CLEANING

What is 'Green Cleaning'?

Green Cleaning protects health and the environment. These alternatives to conventional cleaning products are safer for people and animals and improve indoor air quality. Look for products that are:

- non-toxic
- biodegradable
- made from renewable resources
- petroleum-free

You can also create home-mixed cleaners or use microfiber cloths.

Why practice 'Green Cleaning'?

- 63 synthetic chemical products (roughly 10 gallons of harmful chemicals) are found in the average American home.
- Chemical based cleaners substantially increase indoor air pollution levels.
- Only 30 percent of the 17,000 petrochemicals available for home use have been tested to determine the effects on human health and the environment.

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.

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.

As with any cleaners, follow the manufacturer's instructions and label warnings for ingredients. Do not allow children access or unsupervised use.

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 the surface in one action picking up over 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. Don't use oily, self-softening or powdered detergents, which reduce the effectiveness of the cloth.