



## Green Spring Cleaning Tips

### Bathroom

Remove scum and stubborn marks from baths, sinks and shower stalls with half a lemon covered with a sprinkling of baking powder, the non-abrasive texture guarantees no scratches. Tiles, mirrors and paint work sparkle like new when cleaned with a vinegar and water solution. To give water faucets and stainless steel a shine, polish with baby oil and a dry soft cloth. Toilets benefit from a monthly dousing with white vinegar, regular cleaning with white vinegar and a brush prevents unsightly rings forming in toilet bowl. Mold and mildew can be effectively removed using a 50:50 solution of hydrogen peroxide and water. Spray affected area, repeating if necessary after 2 hours. Cost Savings: Trading traditional bathroom cleaning products and replacing with lemon, baking soda and hydrogen peroxide will actually save you money.

### Kitchen

**Pan Cleaning** To remove burned food from pans add a squirt of dishwashing liquid to a pan half-full of water, then bring to the boil. Allow the liquid to cool

in the pan, then simply wipe clean.

**Oven Cleaning** Removing spills from the bottom of the oven couldn't be easier. Simply sprinkle a handful of salt over the spill, it will reduce the amount of smoke and the spill will be easier to clean once the oven cools down.

**Microwave Oven Cleaning** To clean your microwave oven use 2 tablespoons of lemon juice or vinegar in 2 cups of water in a microwave safe container large enough to hold 4 cups and microwave on high for 3 minutes. Carefully remove the bowl and wipe the oven clean with paper towels.

**Other Kitchen Equipment** If plastic from the bread wrapper melts onto your toaster, allow it cool down then use nail polish remover to get it off. Coffee makers can be cleaned by running through the brew cycle using equal parts of white vinegar and water. Repeat this process two or three times but using fresh water. To keep the fridge smelling fresh and odor-free, two good green options are: get a piece of cotton and put droplets of vanilla extract onto it, and place it in the middle of the fridge or an open box of baking

soda will stop the odors in their tracks. Stainless steel sinks can be freed of lime scale and mineral deposits by placing paper towels soaked in vinegar around the sink. Leave for an hour or so then buff with a dry towel for a clean and shiny effect. Clean sluggish drains by pouring a half a cup of baking soda down the drain then add half a cup of white vinegar and cover. Allow the mixture to foam for a few minutes then pour down 8 more cups of boiling water. Note: Do not use this mixture after using any other commercial cleaner or drain cleaner.

### Homemade Cleaning Products

Dry baking powder makes an excellent polish for chrome. Clean porcelain with a mix of cream of tartar and water. Cream of tartar, when mixed into a paste with hydrogen peroxide, can be used to clean rust from some kitchen tools. The paste is applied and allowed to set for a few hours and then washed off with a baking soda/water solution, another rinse with water and a thorough drying. To create a good all purpose cleaner dissolve 1/4 cup of baking soda in 2 pints water.

### We Want Our Service to Be The Best and You Can Help

Please place your carts at the curb edge with at least 3 feet of clearance from other objects, including other carts, basketball hoops and motor vehicles.



### What Do I Put Into the Organics Cart?

The reason Organics Carts are so important is that using them helps divert materials away from our landfills which is better for the environment. Here is a list to help you use your cart efficiently. Thank you for helping us provide you with the best possible service.

#### Organics Acceptable List

- Grass and weed clippings
- Shrubs and tree prunings (less than 4" in diameter)
- Leaves, plants and flowers
- Food scraps and food soiled paper products

#### Non-acceptable Organics List

- No household garbage
- No plastic bags
- No dirt or rocks
- No overloading - lid must be closed

Amador Valley Industries

Mailing Address P.O. Box 12617 Pleasanton, CA 94588 - Corporate Address 6175 Southfront Road, Livermore, CA 94551  
Phone 925-479-9545 Fax 925-454-0782

# Please Recycle Your Textiles This Spring

According to the U.S. EPA, a whopping 85% of all discarded textiles, 12 million tons, are sent to U.S. landfills every year. USAgain, a green for-profit enterprise, works to reduce textile waste by providing thousands of

convenient locations across the US where you can recycle textiles any time of the day, any day of the year. By putting textiles back in the “use cycle” we conserve precious natural resources, prevent greenhouse gas emissions and save landfill space. What’s more, the clothes are given a second life at affordable prices for people who can’t afford brand new clothes. Textile recycling is a win-win proposition. For more information please visit [www.usagain.com](http://www.usagain.com).

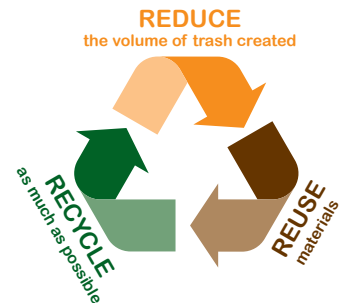


Textile recycling services provided by USAgain.

## Reduce, Recycle and Reuse

No matter how big or small the decision at hand, keep in mind to ask yourself what impact your decisions have regarding “Recycle, Reduce and Reuse.” Please make good choices regarding minimizing waste. Here are a few ideas:

- **Get your name off of junk mail lists** Each year, the average household in the U.S. receives more than 40 lbs. of unwanted, unsolicited mail. The Federal Trade Commission maintains marketing name removal information on the Web at: [www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0262-stopping-unsolicited-mail-phone-calls-and-email](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0262-stopping-unsolicited-mail-phone-calls-and-email).
- **Use a reusable mug** Instead of using a polypropylene or paper cup from the coffee shop, bring in your own mug. Also, bring a water bottle to refill; you’ll save money and reduce waste.
- **Carry a reusable bag** Have one with you to eliminate the need for a paper or plastic one.
- **Look for less packaging and avoid disposables** Nearly 30 percent of our trash is packaging. Much of this is cardboard, which can be recycled, but why use the resources on recycling when we didn’t need that packaging in the first place? When you’re at the store, buy in bulk and bring reusable bags to carry your purchases in. Choose less-packaged products over individually wrapped items.
- **Borrow, rent or shop used** Borrow or rent items that friends or neighbors have or that stores offer, then check out buying used before heading to the store for a new item that you’ll only use a couple of times.



## Please Remind Children About the Safety Zone Around Garbage Trucks

Please discuss all the garbage truck safety rules below with your children. Especially, what the loud beeping noise is that a heavy piece of equipment makes when it backs up. Explain that a child can easily fit into a blind spot to the driver, so never get too close to the back of any big equipment.

- Never walk alongside a garbage truck on the curb as the big arm comes down to grasp a cart.
- Never walk or stand within 50 feet behind a garbage truck, there are blind spots in such a big truck.
- Bicyclists: be very careful when passing a garbage truck, you can appear “out of nowhere” to the driver. Due to the weight of the truck, empty or loaded, it takes 3 to 5 seconds to stop not counting the driver’s reaction time.



In the spirit of conservation we are providing our newsletter online, but please feel free to print it out.