



Spring Cleaning Tips and Ideas

As you know spring is nearing fast and having a plan to do your spring cleaning is important but the first step to help your success is to reduce how much stuff you have. Go through everything in your house and be aggressive about separating out things that you will never really use, for example: closets, drawers, attic, basement and garage and deal with all the stuff you need to get rid of. Things that you haven't used, may really never or rarely use should be candidates for stuff to reuse, repurpose, recycle or donate. The more you get rid of the less clutter you will have and the easier your house will be to keep clean.

Next, the piles and piles of stuff you need to get rid of shouldn't go into the trash. Recycle, reuse and donate those items so they do not end up in our landfills.

Now that you have much of the clutter out its time to deal with what's left and get organized! If you can't find the stuff you need when you need it you may as well not have it at all.

Once the clutter is gone and stuff is

organized it's time to get busy power cleaning everything! Of course for this part try to be as eco friendly as possible, use green cleaners or make your own cleaners with bio degradable items from your kitchen. Try to waste as little as possible and trade in paper towels for microfiber rags and use a good ole fashioned wet mop.



Homemade Household Cleaners

Making your own household cleaners have

three great benefits: they are about a tenth of the cost of store bought alternatives, do not leave the toxic residues that chemical cleaners can and the clean smell is not a concoction of toxic smells masked by perfumes. Here are some examples:

All Purpose Cleaner

Mix 2 tsp. Borax and 1 tsp. liquid dishwashing soap in 1 quart of water and store in spray bottle.

All Purpose Tile Cleaner

Add 2 tbsp. Baking soda to 1 quart warm water to clean porcelain tile.

All Purpose Glass Cleaner

Mix 1/4 cup white vinegar (or 2 tbsp. lemon juice) in 1 quart warm water and store in spray bottle.

Oven Cleaner

Mix 2 tsp. Borax, 2 tbsp. dishwashing soap and 1 quart warm water and spray in oven, wait 20 minutes and clean.

Be on the lookout!

When doing your spring cleaning this year please be on the lookout for old batteries, florescent light bulbs, household kitchen and bathroom cleaners, vehicle fluids, paints, pesticides, pool chemicals because they contain toxins that are poisonous, corrosive or flammable. For more information regarding household hazardous waste disposal call the Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Program at 1-800-606-6606 or StopWaste.Org at 1-877-STOPWASTE (786-7927).

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

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When cleaning out your garage this year please be on the lookout for left over products that you have used for *past* projects. These can be little left overs you thought you may have been going to use but now they are too old to use.



Many of the products that we have purchased over the years are now legally banned from being thrown in the trash due to their toxic ingredients. The toxins in these products severely harm our well being and the well being of our children if released into the environment. Please join us in protecting our environment by properly disposing of household hazardous waste items in a free and convenient way at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Livermore at 5584 La Ribera Street. It is an easy location to find, from Dublin, drive east on highway 580 and exit on to South Vasco Road and make a right on Brisa Street and right again on La Ribera Street.

For Drop-off Center days and hours of operation please call the Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Program at (800) 606-6606 or visit www.household-hazwaste.org for more information.

The Livermore Household Hazardous Waste Facility Accepts the Following for Drop Off...

- Paint, stain, varnish, thinner and adhesives
- Auto products such as old fuel, motor oil, oil filters and batteries
- Household batteries, fluorescent bulbs, cleaners and sprays
- Garden products, pesticides and fertilizers
- Home generated "sharps" waste in approved containers
- Prescription & over the counter medicines, except for controlled substances



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