



Herbal Spring Cleaning



If you want to stop using or cutback on the amount of chemical cleaning products you use, here are some tips on “going green” with your housework.

- Fresh sorrel leaves can be used to clean the bottoms of copper pots. You simply wet a handful and rub the copper area.
- When drying your clothes use a pillow case to put an herb of your choosing in it. Mint, lemon verbena, lavender or rosemary are all good choices. Just tie the pillow case closed with a shoelace. They will smell so fresh.
- Mix some dried herbs with baking soda. Put them in a used spice bottle and sprinkle on your carpet. Let sit for a couple of minutes, then vacuum . Use thyme, lavender, rosemary or any of your favorite herbs.
- Renew & polish wood furniture with a soft cloth, moisten it with a mixture of 3T linseed oil, 3T vinegar and 1/2 t lemon oil.
- For glass cleaner use: 4 cups water, 6 T vinegar, ½ t mild detergent, add a drop of lavender or rosemary oil.
- To keep drains running clear each week: pour 1/2 cup of baking soda in the drain with 1 cup of white vinegar. If the drain is still running slow, then repeat the process. Follow with hot water and allow it to flow down the drain for a couple of minutes. Regular treatments will keep your drains and pipes running free.
- For flies or fungus gnats, use fresh basil & sweet bay leaves. Put them on the windowsill or near your plants that may have gnats.
- Put mint oil on cotton balls to keep mice away.
- Fresh bay leaves added to your flour or cornmeal will keep weevils away.
- Ants will be deterred by a sprinkling of cinnamon.
- If raccoons keep getting in your garbage, sprinkle cayenne pepper on the lid. They won't like licking their paws.
- All purpose cleaner : use 4 tablespoons baking soda with 1 quart warm water. Dissolve baking soda in warm water. Apply with a sponge. Rinse with clear water. You can also use it in a spray bottle.