

How to clean house with safer chemicals

As regularly as March winds blow and May flowers grow, April brings thoughts of spring cleaning.

To get a thorough cleaning and still keep toxic chemicals at a minimum, I've outlined some of the usual spring cleaning products and suggested alternatives. This information comes from the Ecology Center in Ann Arbor.

OVEN CLEANERS can cause serious burns to skin or gastrointestinal organs if accidentally swallowed.

Oakland Parks honors conservation clubs in state

Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) will be honored by the Oakland Parks Foundation at its seventh annual dinner May 3 at Glen Oaks County Park, Farmington Hills.

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs were instrumental, in 1980, in the passage of a state bond issue for funding the development of public recreation facilities, cleanup of environmental contamination, facilities for solid waste management, and resource recovery alternatives. MUCC has developed educational programs to encourage understanding of conservation and environmental concepts.

Thomas Washington, executive director of MUCC, will accept the award and be guest speaker at the dinner.

Retiring officers of the Oakland Parks Foundation will also be honored. Bloomfield Hills attorney George A. Googasian will become president emeritus, after serving as president during the last six years.

During his tenure, the foundation raised \$300,000 to preserve and enhance parks and recreation in Oakland County. Googasian was responsible for raising funds for the Boston Marathon Camp Scholarship, enabling hundreds of needy youngsters to attend a week-long sports camp.

Also honored will be retiring trustee and former secretary Barbara (Bunny) Goldman, of Birmingham, executive director of the Michigan Council for the Arts. Goldman was among those responsible for the formation of the Foundation.

Founding Trustee Marjorie Walker of Birmingham, who served on the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, will also be honored.

OFFICERS FOR 1989-90 will be: president John Thuermer, attorney and partner at Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone, and vice president Christopher Nern, assistant vice president, legal department for the Detroit Edison Co., both of Birmingham; secretary Kathryn (Kit) King of Rochester, president of Baker, Abbs, Cunningham & Klempner; and treasurer Donald Van Loo of Bloomfield Hills, accountant with Janz and Knight.

New Oakland Parks Foundation trustees include: Alice Shotwell Gustafson, president, Hubert Distributors Inc. and Hayes Jones, director of marketing, Strook Brewery Co., both of Pontiac; and from Troy, Robert Larsen, director of Human Resources at Oakland Intermediate Schools.

Trustees being installed for an additional three-year term include: from Birmingham, Lewis E. Wint of Clarkston, Florida Fields-Anderson and Jack C. Hayes, of Pontiac; Anthony Phillips of Rochester; Walter Gier of Sylvan Lake; John Decker of Troy; and Renee Mahler and Lorna McEwen of West Bloomfield.

The Oakland Parks Foundation is a non-profit organization created in 1983 by citizens who have an interest in preserving and enhancing parks and recreation in Oakland County. Successful projects include the Sadie and Irwin Cohn Amphitheater, All Visitor Nature Trail, and Great Escape programs for youth and seniors.

Underwriters of the annual dinner include Schmidt Copeland Parker Stevens and Oak Management.

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lowed. Fumes are caustic and can damage lungs if inhaled.

Alternative:

- Clean spills as they happen or sprinkle salt on spills while still warm and scrub.
- A solution of baking soda and water will remove grease.
- Consumer Reports magazine found Arm & Hammer brand oven cleaner to be both non-toxic and effective.

CLEANSERS have a low level of toxicity. If swallowed, abrasive cleansers would irritate the gastric tract. Particles may irritate the nose and lungs if inhaled. Chlorine-type cleansers can irritate hands, eyes and nose.

Alternatives:

- Bon Ami Cleanser contains only silica and soap.
- Baking soda and water.

• Liquid "soft-scrub" type cleansers contain calcium carbonate.

DISINFECTANTS can also be classified as a pesticide. Disinfecting kills most, but not all, of the germs that are present, so it is not considered the same as sterilizing. Can cause severe burns upon contact. Pine oil irritates the eyes and mucous membranes.

Alternatives:

- Bleach — use one-quarter cup to one quart of water.
- Keep bathrooms dry to prevent mold and mildew.
- An open box of baking soda makes a good room deodorizer.

AIR FRESHENERS mask or counteract one odor with another. Aerosols coat the nasal passages with an oily film and diminish the sense of



Terry Gibb

smell with a nerve-deadening agent.

Alternatives:

- Open windows to ventilate.
- An open box of baking soda.
- A small jar with spices and/or flowers (potpourri).

FURNITURE AND FLOOR polishes sometimes contain petroleum distillates, which can cause a form of chemical pneumonia; and aerosols which cause inhaling of these solvents.

Alternatives:

• Murphy's Oil Soap (contains no phosphates only vegetable oil).

- Mineral oil and a clean cloth.
- Homemade polish: Melt one tablespoon carnauba wax into two cups of mineral oil. Use on furniture and floors.

KITCHEN FLOOR WAX can irritate lungs, nasal passages, skin and eyes.

Alternatives:

- Damp mop with Murphy's Oil Soap.

TOILET BOWL and drain cleaners account for about 10,000 injuries each year in the United States. Most liquid bowl cleaners contain hydrogen chloride which is highly corrosive. Granular bowl cleaners contain sodium bisulfate, which when combined with water becomes corrosive to body tissues. Toxic fumes can

cause pulmonary irritation. In-tank toilet cleaners usually contain borax which has a very low toxicity, but the cleaning results are not the best.

Alternatives:

- Liquid "soft-scrub" type cleansers and a toilet bowl brush will rub away mineral deposits. Disinfecting is only necessary when a family member has an intestinal disease.

ECO-TIP: For a complete list of household products and alternatives, send for a free "Household Hazardous Substances" Chart from Concern Detroit at the address below. Please include a business-sized, self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The Consumer Mailbag answers your questions. Address mail to The Consumer Mailbag, Concern Detroit, One Kennedy Square, 4th Floor, Detroit, 48226.

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15.99 Haggard duck shorts for men. Save on top-quality shorts featuring an elastic-back waist and side pockets. In easy-care cotton/poly blends. Sizes 32-42. Men's Casual Slacks. Reg. \$22, now 15.99.

25% Off Pierre Cardin & Dior active sportswear. Updated looks. Save on crisp poplin and comfortable chambray shirts, pants and shorts. Men's Active Sportswear. Reg. \$25-\$45, now 18.75-33.75.

25% Off Entire stock of men's jackets and rainwear. London Fog. Members Only, Levi's® more. Men's Outerwear and Rainwear. Jackets, reg. 29.97-\$75, now 22.48-56.25. Rainwear, reg. 99.97-\$215, now 74.98-161.25.

25% Off Entire stock of men's hosiery. Dior, Burlington, more. Dress socks and casual socks. Solids and fancies. Plus, Prima sport socks by Burlington. Furnishings. Reg. 3.50-9.50, now 2.63-7.13.

25% Off Bugle Boy & Levi's® Dockers for boys. Big savings on Bugle Boy shorts and pants in many colors and styles. And, new to Crowley's, Levi's® Dockers for boys. 4600" in Boys' Wear. Bugle Boy, reg. \$17-\$35, now 12.75-26.25. Dockers, reg. \$27-\$31, now 20.25-23.25.



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*Spring Sale ends April 30, or while quantities last. Selections may vary by store. †Home items available at Westborn, Macomb, Livonia, Lakeside, Universal, Birmingham, Farmington Hills and Wildwood Plaza, unless noted. Hurry in!

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