



## Tips For An Early Spring

### Homemade Household Cleaners

Making your own household cleaners have two great benefits: they are about a tenth of the cost of store bought alternatives and do not leave the toxic residues that chemical cleaners can. 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).



### Springtime Safety Tips

- One important thing to remember is when using a barbecue with charcoal please make sure that the ashes have set for a minimum of 48 hours, then wrap ashes in tin foil and put in

garbage cart. Deceiving ashes can conceal a hot ember that can start a fire in your garbage cart threatening nearby structures or

at the very least melting holes in your cart causing a big mess and requiring you to pay for a replacement cart.

- Keep your barbecue grill clean and free of

grease buildups. If accumulated grease deposits catch fire they can be difficult to put out. It's a good idea to have a fire extinguisher close by just in case.

- Change the batteries in all smoke detectors; use day light savings time as a reminder.
- Check batteries in flashlights; be prepared for power outages.

### We want our service to be the best, and you can help!

Please place your cart at the curb edge with **at least 3 feet of clearance** from other objects, including other carts, basketball hoops and motor vehicles. Make sure your cart lid is down completely. Thank you for helping us provide you with the best possible service. Together we can keep our neighborhoods safe and clean.



### What do I put into the greenwaste cart?

The reason Greenwaste carts are so important is that they help divert tons of materials away from our landfills which saves costs and is better for the environment. Here is a list to help you utilize your cart efficiently.

#### Greenwaste 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 greenwaste list

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

## Bay-Friendly Garden Tour

### Sunday, April 27, 2008

### 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Showcasing Natural Gardening Techniques

The 5th annual FREE tour continues to celebrate the diverse styles of Bay-Friendly with a new crop of



gardens throughout Alameda County. Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore gardeners adapt traditional landscapes with drought-tolerant perennials better

suited to the valley. Backyard farmers across the County grow bountiful harvests of fruit and vegetables and keep goats, chickens and bees for their milk, eggs and honey. Neighbors in Berkeley cultivate a common garden as well as their own backyard retreats. Several of the garden clusters are walkable and/or bikeable. Bay-Friendly gardens offer something for everyone – come and discover ideas for creating your perfect haven.

Registration for the tour is required. Visit [www.BayFriendly.org](http://www.BayFriendly.org) by April 15, 2008 to register for the tour. Registrants will receive a tour guide book with garden directions and descriptions by mail. Native plants, vegetable starts and Mediterranean perennials can be purchased at select sites on the tour.



## Build It Green Home Tour

### Sunday, June 1, 2008

### 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Building on the huge success of our past home tours, Build It Green is excited to return and offer our third Build It Green Home Tour in Alameda and Contra Costa

Counties. Don't miss this one-day self-guided tour showcasing green homes that will introduce attendees to homeowners and building professionals who have built or remodeled green. See houses that look great, save money and are easier on the environment.



Discover green materials like fiber-cement siding, recycled wood decking, bamboo flooring and recycled glass counter tops. Learn about green technologies

such as radiant floor heating, green roofs, greywater systems, solar hot water and solar electric systems.

For more information on how to purchase a guidebook for the tour, visit [www.BuildItGreen.org](http://www.BuildItGreen.org) or call 1-888-404-7336.

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One stamp will be given for each 25 lbs. of recyclable material presented at the Buy Back Center. A total of 75 lbs. (3 stamps) of recyclable material must be presented during any given quarter to receive a credit. If you have an automated 90 gallon service, your quarterly credit will be \$3.51. If you have an automated 35 gallon service, your quarterly credit will be \$2.22.




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Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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