



## SPRING CLEANING TIPS



After the winter months that your home has been closed up to keep in the warmth, in home air can be more polluted than the air that is outside. We have two suggestions that can bring that fresh spring smell into your home.

First, homes can be built so tight for energy efficiency that new air doesn't get a chance to get inside and circulate. So, if the weather permits, we suggest opening all your windows and running your fan for a short time to clear the air ducts and rooms. If you have allergies this may not be a good plan for you. Therefore, our second suggestion is even more important.

Second, if your in-home air is constricted, it is more important to limit toxic fumes from household cleaning products. An alternative to household cleaning products with toxic fumes are "home-made" formulas. To make your own cleaning products at home you will need to add a few things to your grocery list: Borax, Baking Soda, Washing Soda (higher pH than baking soda), white vinegar, dishwashing soap and plenty of fresh lemons.

Plus, you will need some spray bottles to put them in; if you can recycle your own spray bottles that is great (be sure to wash them thoroughly).

The process of making your own home-made cleaning products will take a little more effort but the benefits are: 1. you and your family won't breath toxic fumes, 2. the natural scents may dissipate quicker, 3. the natural acids will kill germs/bacteria and 4. because you can soak surfaces longer without toxic fumes you may get better cleaning results.

All natural recipes include:

### *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. Substitute Washing Soda for very difficult stains and grime. The higher alkalinity of the Washing Soda will work better than Baking Soda, but it can dry out your skin, so, we suggest using gloves.

### *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. White Vinegar and Lemon Juice are acidic – they neutralize alkaline substances such as scale from hard water. They also kill mold, germs, and bacteria.

### *Oven Cleaner*

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

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

**Garbage Carts** 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.

**Please — no dirt, rocks, batteries, fluorescent lights, sharps or overloading — lids must be closed to prevent spills.**



**Recycling Cart Acceptable List** Paper, cardboard, aluminum containers and foil, steel or tin cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles and tubs (such as yogurt, margarine and cottage cheese, numbers ♻️ through ♻️).

**Recycling Cart Non-Acceptable List** No plastic bags, wrapping film, wire and string, waxed paper containers, foam packaging, paper towels & napkins, food soiled paper & cardboard, aerosol cans and diapers.

**Greenwaste Cart 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.

**Greenwaste Cart Non-Acceptable List** No plastic bags, wrapping film, no household garbage. **No dirt or rocks.**  
**No overloading — lid must be closed to prevent spills.**

# Barbecue Or Fireplace Ashes?



Fire Departments often respond to fires in trash carts, garages and backyard sheds, which sometimes spread into the house. In many of these cases, we find that an improper container used to store ashes is the cause of the fire: grocery bags, plastic buckets, plastic trash cans. Sometimes all that is left is a little puddle of plastic the size of a silver dollar under the area of heaviest damage.

Cold ashes many times conceal hot embers within. These embers can smolder for days. When they come in contact with something flammable, fire results.

Using the correct container is a surefire cure for ash disposal fires. Grocery bags and aluminum foil will ignite in just a few hours after they have been filled with ashes. Plastic trash containers are absolutely no good for ash removal. Even if the plastic trash can is lidded, the hot embers touch the side of the container, melt through, let in air, and when the air mixes with the melted plastic, a very hot fire quickly results. In many cases, hot ashes dumped on a compost heap will start a fire with the first gust of wind.

Use a metal container with a lid that seals tightly. Place your ashes in the container, put the lid on tightly, and place it away from walls, papers, and other flammables. Let it sit for a week, at least, before you dispose of it. As an added precaution you may want to add some water to the ashes. Thoroughly **wet ashes** can be placed in aluminum foil and disposed of in the trash. **Never put ashes that have not been cooled with water in foil** and then put in the trash because the package can be torn open or create enough heat to cause a fire in your trash cart.

## Household Hazardous Waste

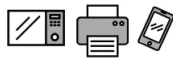
Please be on the lookout for left over products that you have used for *past* projects. These can be small amounts you thought you may use but now they are too old to use.

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 humans and animals 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.



**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](http://www.household-hazwaste.org) for more information.**

## Common Hazardous Materials



Electronics &  
Small Appliances



Batteries



Fluorescent  
Bulbs



Paints



Pest & Garden



Oil, Gasoline,  
Auto Fluids



Propane



Cleaners



Medicine  
(find drop-off options)



Sharps  
Containers



Miscellaneous

### Prohibited Items:

Explosives, Radioactives, Railroad Ties & Treated Wood (call Altamont Landfill at 925-455-7300), Compressed Gas Cylinders (other than Propane), Large Appliances (A/C, Refrigerators, Stoves, Washers, etc.), Construction and Demolition Waste and Asbestos. These are still considered hazardous waste and should not go in the trash. For information on how to properly dispose of these items, consult 800-606-6606.