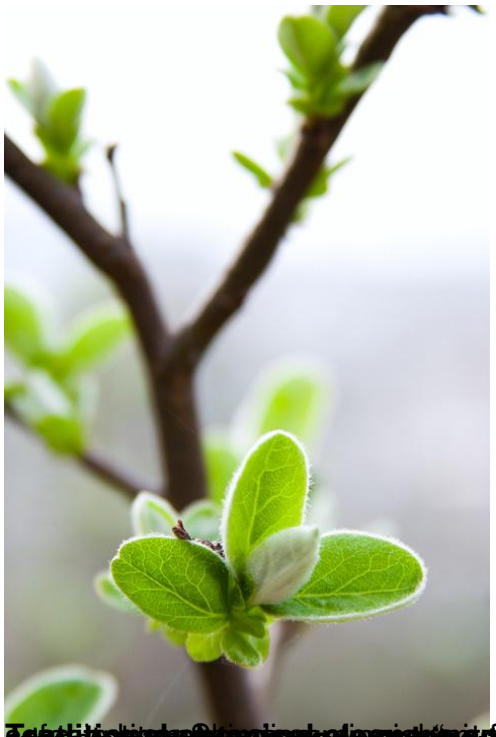
Time to **break out the mop and bucket**, it's that time of year again! While getting your home and office clean and organized may appear daunting, tackling this job will have you feeling invigorated and inspired to get more work done in the long run. We say
**ditch those toxic chemicals**
and
**opt for products that are friendly to the earth and life on it**
. If you're feeling extra-ambitious, you can even try your hand at creating your own earth-friendly cleaning concoctions, a few recipes can be found in this guide.

Don't forget to **recycle or donate everything you can** during and after your "greencleaning" spree.

Dispose of e-waste, batteries, old furniture, and other "junk" laying around responsibly; **taking the time to use recycling and recovery services in your community is invaluable**
. Organizations like Vancouver's Happy Stan's can pick up a variety of materials from homes, businesses and industrial sites. Thinking of our everyday "junk" in a cradle-to-grave context rather than as instantly disposable is an important step in minimizing consumption and raising awareness about the myriad products we choose to buy and their sometimes unforeseen consequences.

# Keep in Mind

-



## Greencleaning: DIY

Scouring different websites for home greencleaning solutions, one thing becomes very clear: **formulating your own cleaning supplies is almost ridiculously easy** and usually involves just a few common ingredients and some elbow grease.

The main items you need for your own cleaning solutions are **vinegar, salt, baking soda, cornstarch, olive oil, lemon juice and some essential oils** if you want to make things smell pretty in a non-toxic way. Borax, a bleach alternative that kills mold and bacteria, may also come in handy along with castile and vegetable oil-based soaps.

Here are a few simple recipes care of Hugg.ca, but you can find many more with a quick Internet search. There are also some great books on the subject such as Green Clean or Clean & Green.

## Toilet Bowl Cleaner

- 1/4 cup baking soda
- 1/4 cup white vinegar

Sprinkle baking soda into the toilet bowl and add vinegar. Let sit for a couple of minutes before cleaning with a toilet brush.

## Drain Cleaner

- 125 ml baking sod
- 1 cup white vinegar

- Boiling water
Pour baking soda down the drain and follow with vinegar. Cover the drain. A few minutes later, pour boiling water down the drain to clear.

## Glass Cleaner

- 75 ml white vinegar
- 1 tsp cornstarch
- 1L warm water
Combine all ingredients and clean glass with a sponge. Wipe dry.

## Wood Furniture Polish

- 1/4 cup white vinegar
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 tsp lemon juice
Combine all ingredients in a spray bottle, spray on furniture and wipe dry.

**Though these products are all-natural, label them properly and keep them out of child's reach!**

## Find more green cleaning supplies and green cleaning suppliers in our directory.

{linkr:related;keywords:clean;exclude:79,51,66,75,87,114,115,148,61,95,135,155,76,77,88,96,137,157,93,150,161,162;limit:5;title:If+you+like+this%2C+try+these}