

THE BEE LINE

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CHEMICALS, CLEANING and YOU

CHEMICALS 🧪 The very word makes some people nervous. For some it conjures images of toxic compounds that pollute and damage the environment. For others it may bring to mind unhealthy additives in our food and drink. Chemical can be a scary word. It makes sense to define what a chemical really is.

One useful definition for the word is found in the World English Dictionary: "**chemical** - any substance used in or resulting from a reaction involving changes to atoms or molecules, especially one derived artificially for practical use." This definition sums it up quite well, because it covers all the bases for what we typically refer to as chemicals.

Chemicals as they relate to cleaning, deodorization and sanitizing of surfaces are just that; compounds that are used to react with and change other compounds, such as oils, dirt and contamination.

You likely use chemicals on a daily basis as a safe and effective means to keep your home clean

See "CHEMICALS, Cleaning" on next page



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and healthy. This includes dish soap, laundry detergent, air fresheners, and even shampoo, soap and toothpaste.

But what about the cleaning agents that professionals use when they come into your home to provide services such as carpet cleaning? Should you be concerned? Well, *yes and no*.

We are in the midst of a green revolution; a general shift toward using products that are safer for the environment. As a result, professional cleaners now have more products that are effective, safe and environmentally friendly. Organic cleaners, natural deodorizers and plant-based disinfectants are becoming more popular. As consumers become more environmentally aware, manufacturers of cleaning agents are also making significant headway into formulations that do not contribute to poor indoor air quality.

Still, some of the products used in professional cleaning products can be a cause for concern. Professionals and consumers alike should be conscious of how cleaning products are stored, used, and disposed of.

In addition, the products used by professionals are usually in concentrated form. Label directions as to dilution and application must be followed.

Hot water can remove a great deal of soil. In fact, water does the bulk of the work in carpet cleaning. But water alone is usually not enough to get your carpet to its cleanest possible state. There are too many soils and pollutants that bond to the carpet via chemical and molecular bonds must be broken.

That's why we use cleaning agents. Detergents, surfactants and buffering agents break the bonds that soils have on carpet. Some cleaning companies buy the cheapest chemicals

they can get. Sure, the carpet looks cleaner, but the stain-resistance is compromised and the carpet will re-soil rapidly because of detergent residues. We choose cleaners that are effective, safe for people and pets, and easy on the environment, even though they cost a little more. We feel it's worth it.

At times, because of the type of spot or stain we are dealing with, we must use products containing solvents, acids or alkalis. If so, our technicians are trained to mix, apply, neutralize and rinse so that no unwanted residues are left behind. The rinse water is captured and properly disposed of to assure that there is no negative impact on the environment.

The bottom line is that whenever you have **Clean Bee** clean for you, you can be assured of a healthier home, carpet that stays cleaner longer along with environmental responsibility.

The Good Life



Good Clean Funnies

What building in your town has the most stories?

The public library.

How do you talk to a giant?

Use big words.

Why is six afraid of seven?

Because seven eight nine.



SUMMER Squash Bake

Directions

Heat oven to 375 degrees F.

Cook zucchini and yellow squash in large skillet sprayed with cooking spray on medium heat for 5 minutes or until crisp-tender, stirring frequently. Remove from heat.

Ingredients

- 2 small zucchini, thinly sliced
- 1 small yellow squash, thinly sliced
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup MIRACLE WHIP Dressing
- 1/3 cup KRAFT 100% Grated Parmesan Cheese
- 1 cup KRAFT Finely Shredded Italian Style Five Cheese Blend
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

Whisk eggs and dressing in large bowl until blended. Stir in Parmesan cheese. Add zucchini mixture and all remaining ingredients; mix lightly. Spoon into 8-inch square baking dish.

Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until center is set and edges are lightly browned.

Serves 8.

Recipe courtesy allrecipes.com



ROUGH Allergy Season?



Spring brings tree pollen, summer sees grass allergies flare up and weeds flourish in the fall. Climate change, especially warmer temperatures, has been causing higher pollen counts and longer pollen seasons.

Whether you are one of the many chronic allergy sufferers or you're noticing symptoms for the first time, you know how irritating - and even debilitating - allergies can be.

Finding relief throughout allergy season may involve proactive measures to reduce your exposure to outdoor allergens.

Here are some tips to help reduce the allergens in your home:

- Be aware of pollen counts - Check your local forecast for daily pollen counts, which tend to be higher on warmer, drier days.

- Stay indoors and keep windows closed - Especially on high pollen count days, reduce your symptoms by spending more time indoors with windows closed.
- Keep allergens outside - After spending time outdoors, leave shoes at the door. Change your clothes and shower to cut down on pollen brought into the home, or wipe off allergens with a cleansing wipe.
- Change HVAC filters frequently - Use high-efficiency filters and change them frequently, to reduce in-home allergens like dust mites and pet dander.
- Use a portable HEPA air filter - This can help, especially in your bedroom or other rooms where you spend a lot of time.

Feeling itchy, sneezy and congested? Over 50 million people suffer from allergies nationwide, and a large portion of those are seasonal sufferers.

The BENEFITS of Recycling Add Up

Educators have created interesting and innovative curriculum to teach today's school-aged children about the importance of waste prevention and recycling. If you don't have a kid handy to remind you about how important it is to conserve natural resources and extend the life of our existing landfills by participating in community recycling programs, then consider the following:

- Using one ton of post-consumer paper to make new paper products saves approximately 7,000 gallons of water and conserves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.
- Recycling 300 lbs. of paper saves roughly one tree.
- For every ton of glass that is recycled we eliminate 384 lbs. of mining waste.
- Using post-consumer aluminum cans to make new cans produces about 95% less air pollution as compared to the process of manufacturing aluminum cans from virgin materials.
- Paper recycling reduces pollution by about 50%.
- Recycling a 36-in stack of newspaper saves about 73 kilowatt hours of electricity (about 14% of a typical residential electric utility bill).
- Recycling one pound of aluminum saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for 290 hours.
- It takes 64% less energy to make paper products from post-consumer paper, saving the equivalent of three barrels of oil for each ton of paper that is recycled.



The energy that you save by recycling 1 ton of paper can power 1 home for 5 months. The average family uses 6 trees worth of paper each year.



Keeping Your Home SAFE from Burglary

Here are a few simple things that you can do to help decrease the chances that your home will be burglarized:

- Give your home a lived-in look to deter burglars. Inexpensive timers set to turn on lights in different rooms at different times usually work best.
- Close drapes and shades so that it would be impossible to detect interior motion from the outside, especially in high-traffic areas such as the front room and kitchen.
- Place lamps close to windows to obscure the view into a room.
- Leave music on. It signals a burglar that someone is home.
- Secure windows and doors with secondary locks.
- Get to know your neighbors and let them know when you are going out of town so that they can keep an eye on your home while you are gone.
- Don't open your door to anyone you can't identify or can't verify their identity.
- Don't wear expensive jewelry out in everyday situations - don't advertise. Someone might spot you in a store, mall, etc. and follow you to find out where you live.
- If you notice someone walking around your community wearing a uniform, overalls, or a clipboard, and they (or the uniform) doesn't look familiar, don't hesitate to ask for identification. Many burglars will "research" prospective victims by using this approach knowing that very few people will ever question them.
- Join a neighborhood watch!



Remember to change passcodes on electronic locks and garage doors from time to time for better security.





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