

THE BEE LINE

OCTOBER 2021

Published exclusively for clients of Clean Bee and The Cleaning Studio



CLEANING TAGS *on Your Furniture...*

What Do Those Codes MEAN?

Look under the cushions of a typical piece of upholstered furniture and you will usually find a fabric care tag. This tag should include an indication of the recommended procedures for maintenance and routine cleaning of that particular piece of furniture. Part of the tag will likely assure you that all new materials were used; this is a reference to the stuffing inside the piece.

What you want to know, more, is how to keep this piece of furniture looking its best, so look for another tag.

The Cleaning Tag

You should find a tag that specifically lists a cleaning code. Before we go into what these codes mean, please note that these tags and codes are merely a guideline to

assist you in spot cleaning only. The tag is also an indication to the professional cleaner how to avoid color loss, bleeding, browning or shrinkage during cleaning.

Fabrics are made from a variety of fibers including cotton, polyester, silk, rayon, nylon, polypropylene, acetate, acrylic, wool and blends thereof. They can be woven in a variety of ways, as well as having an unlimited

See "CLEANING TAGS" on next page



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array of dye methods, colors and patterns. All of these different combinations make avoiding possible cleaning reactions very challenging, but possible - if you know what you're doing!

Improper selection of cleaning agents or methods can lead to permanent damage to fabrics. An example is crushed velvet. If it is treated improperly, it can lose its softness, luster and crimp. This sort of damage is irreversible. Many floral or multicolored patterns are printed on the fabric rather than woven into it. Extra care must be taken when cleaning these as the colors are only on the surface. The wrong chemical can actually remove the printed dyes, or destabilize them to the point that the colors run into each other. Again, this is uncorrectable.

So, effective, and safe, cleaning of your upholstered furniture means

knowing how to clean it. Part of that requires deciphering the code, so here are the cleaning codes and their meanings:

W: This code tells you to spot clean only with water based shampoo or foam upholstery cleaner. If your tag has a "W" be careful not to over wet the area or use any solvents.

S: This code tells you the opposite of "W" – it says to spot clean only with a water free dry cleaning solvent. But remember to always pretest a small, inconspicuous area before proceeding. Be careful not to oversaturate the material or to use any water.

WS or SW: When you see this tag spot clean with upholstery shampoo, foam from a mild detergent, or mild dry cleaning solvent.

X: This is a really important one which means to clean only by vacuuming or light brushing with

a non-metallic, stiff bristle brush. Never use any water or solvent-based cleaners on furniture that has this tag.

No matter what tag you see, remember these basic suggestions:

- Always clean spills promptly, calling a professional if you are in doubt.
- Never rub but rather blot up liquids to avoid damaging the carpet fibers.
- Always start cleaning from the outside of the stain, working your way in, to avoid spreading the stain.
- Do not remove cushion covers for cleaning as they may shrink or misshape and not go back on properly.

Contact **Clean Bee** today for more tips, help or to schedule an appointment.

The Good Life



Good Clean Funnies

How do you make an octopus laugh?

With ten-tickles.

What was the first animal in space?

The cow that jumped over the moon.

Are monsters good at math?

Not unless you count Dracula.



These Borracho-style beans are perfect for the Fall. They are great for tailgating or a backyard BBQ!

South Texas BORRACHO Beans

Directions

Place pinto beans into a large container and cover with several inches of cool water. Soak beans 8 hours to overnight.

Cook bacon in a large skillet over medium-high heat until crispy, about 10 minutes. Remove bacon slices to a plate lined with paper towel to drain, reserving the bacon drippings. Chop the bacon.

Drain and rinse pinto beans; transfer to a large pot. Pour enough water over the beans to cover by several inches. Stir salt and garlic powder into the water; bring to a boil and reduce heat to medium-low. Add bacon, reserved bacon drippings, beer, cilantro, green onions, diced tomatoes, and jalapeno pepper to the water; bring mixture to a simmer and cook until the beans are completely tender, 90 minutes to 2 hours.

Cook's Note:

The jalapeno is for flavor only. I don't recommend eating it as part of this dish.

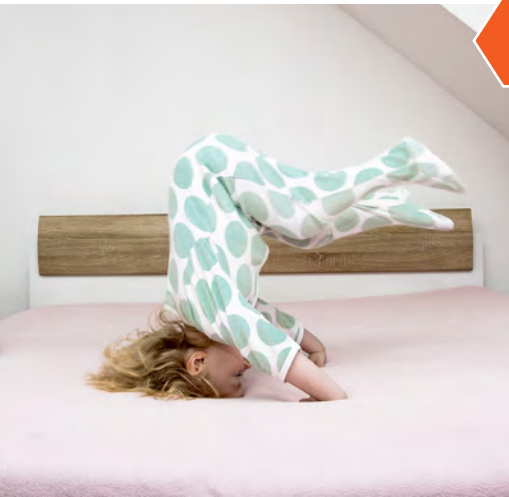
Ingredients

- 1 pound dried pinto beans
- 1/2 pound bacon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) bottle dark lager-style beer
- 1 bunch cilantro, chopped
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes
- 1 fresh jalapeno pepper

Recipe courtesy allrecipes.com



Win a GOLD Medal: Protect Your Children from Tip-Overs



After watching weeks of the summer Olympic Games, young children may be inspired to attempt their own competitions at home.

Before kids start practicing their favorite Olympic sport they watched over the summer, parents should be aware that furniture and TV tip-overs pose a significant risk to children. Tip-overs happen so fast! It's literally in the blink of an eye, often with a parent close by. Adults should install anti-tip kits to furniture and TVs to reduce the risk of tip-overs and keep their little gymnasts safer while they try their own gold medal floor routine.

Increasingly, anchors are provided with the purchase of new furniture and TVs. But if they are not, people can purchase an inexpensive anti-tip kit online, or at their local hardware store.

There are additional safety steps for families to take to reduce the risk of a furniture

and TV tip-over incident. Adults should:

- Store heavier items on lower shelves or in lower drawers;
- Keep TV and cable cords out of reach of children;
- Avoid storing items, such as toys and TV remotes, on top of furniture or TVs, where children may be tempted to climb; and
- Place TVs on a sturdy, low base, and push the TV back as far as possible, especially if anchoring is not possible.

Parents or caregivers who take these easy steps to protect children deserve a gold medal; but the true reward is knowing they made the lives of their kids safer.

How to INVEST in the PLANET

More than ever, people are interested in using their investment money in ways that help the planet, directing funds toward green stocks and other areas.

The trend goes by many names, including green investing, ethical investing, socially responsible investing, and ESG investing (for environmental, social and governance). When you do your research, check into a fund or advisor's methodology of choosing investments to make sure it aligns with your goals.

Also consider that green investing has been on an upswing, which could be a cause for caution as well as enthusiasm. Kiplinger's says that from the start of 2020 through late January 2021, "a basket of U.S. renewable-energy stocks has out-gained the broad S&P 500 index by more than 200 percentage points."

It added that the median price-earnings ratio of the renewable names, based on projected profits, was 40 percent higher than the S&P 500's.

In other words, green investing is at a high and could encounter a bit of a shake-up, though its long-term prospects still look favorable. A number of exchange-traded funds include portfolios of companies with an environmental focus.

So how to get started? NerdWallet suggests investing in ESG funds and investing in sustainable stocks. ESG funds are mutual funds graded using ESG principles, investing in companies that have a sustainable and societal impact.

You can also request an impact report that details the effect your investment has had on the real world.



The good news is that whatever matters to you most - be it climate change, environmental pollution or the plastic problem - there will be an investment fund or portfolio available for you to back this cause with your savings.



MASTERING the Dishwasher: Tips For BEST Use and Care

To rinse or not to rinse? Bowls on top or bottom? Should pots and pans go in at all?

Here are some tips and tricks to best use and care for your dishwasher.

1) Select a quality dishwasher: When purchasing a new one, look for one that has drying technology, flexible loading features, is energy efficient and, of course, has a thorough, reliable clean.

2) Load your dishwasher properly: To maximize space and ensure your dishes are clean and dry, follow these simple steps:

- No pre-rinsing needed: Simply scrape food off the plate before loading.
- Load your glasses at an angle to avoid water pooling on top and dripping when unloading.

- Make sure your plasticware is dishwasher safe, and that you've followed your manual's instructions for plastics.
- Ensure tall items, such as large plates or pots, are not blocking the movement of the spray arms.
- Avoid stacking silverware and put knives sharp end down for safety.

3) Keep your dishwasher spotless: Keep the exterior and interior of your dishwasher clean according to your manual's instructions.

Additionally, clean your filter with warm, soapy water and a scrub brush every few months to remove food debris that may hinder your dishwasher's performance. It's located at the bottom of most models.

Have you ever found yourself rearranging the dishwasher after someone else loads it? One of the great household debates is how to load the dishwasher!



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