



Diamond Properties

Martin Mielko

Make your kitchen sparkle, eco-style!

Dear Martin,

Spring cleaning time is here again, and no better place to start than with the kitchen! This year we wanted to provide you with tips to get your home sparkling clean using some of the best non-toxic cleaners out there!



Many green cleaning products are just as effective at sanitizing your kitchen as conventional cleaners, and they get the job done without relying on harmful chemicals.

Not too long ago you had to scour the backroads of the Internet to find non-toxic alternatives, but no more: Many green cleaning products are now available at mainstream retailers. Look for brands such as Method, Seventh Generation, and Holy Cow.

What's more, some of the greenest of green kitchen cleaners can probably already be found in your pantry-and cost a fraction of what you'd pay for commercial cleaners, whether conventional or eco-friendly.

Countertops

Toss out those anti-microbial wipes and sprays when you're cleaning your countertops. Most contain chemicals like sodium hypochlorite (bleach) or ammonium chlorides, which are listed as hazardous to the health of humans and pets by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, says Gary Pien, an allergist and immunologist with Summit Medical Group in Berkeley Heights, N.J. "These chemicals can cause eye and skin irritation on contact, and if mixed with other cleaning products, can release toxic gases," Pien says.

Combine equal parts vinegar and tap water to make your own non-toxic mix. Warm it in a glass bowl in the microwave to boost cleaning power. A 64-ounce bottle of food-grade vinegar costs about \$4, so it'll set you back a buck to stir up a 32-ounce batch of homemade countertop cleaner. You won't have to dip too far into your pocketbook to buy a greener all-purpose cleaner. A 32-ounce bottle of Seventh Generation's all-purpose cleaner costs



Featured Properties

Charm and Location!



2185 Holly Lane

Live in Wine Country in the beautiful Santa Ynez Valley. This charming 3 bed/2bath home boasts vaulted ceilings, fireplace, over-sized garage, views of the green belt, and is in close proximity to dining, shopping, and world class entertainment.

Yours for only \$660,132

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Fantastic Rental Income



388 Via El Encantador

Charming triplex located in the San Marcos High School district. The downstairs unit has 4 bedrooms & 2 baths and currently rents for \$3150 per month, and the garage has been converted into a large studio with its own private

about \$5, while the same size conventional cleaner costs about \$4.50.

Refrigerators

If you have a stainless steel fridge, add a few drops of a natural dishwashing liquid such as Mrs. Meyer's (\$4.49 for 16 ounces) or Method (\$4 for 25 ounces) to warm water to wipe off greasy fingerprints instead of shelling out the \$7-\$10 a store-bought stainless cleaner will cost. And when you're wiping, remember stainless steel has a grain, just like wood, and you need to clean in the same direction it runs, says Mary Findley, author of *"The Complete Idiot's Guide to Green Cleaning."*

On the inside, use the tried-and-true remedy for foul fridge smells: a box of baking soda. It costs about \$1. Save even more by buying baking soda in bulk: a 12-pound bag costs about \$7. For sticky spills, a vinegar and water mix should clean it right up, Findley says.

Sinks & Drains

Liquid dishwashing soaps with bio-based ingredients like aloe and essential oils are a good bet here as well. You'll pay a bit more than the \$2-\$3 the cheapest conventional soaps will cost, but when you consider this is what's going onto the surfaces you eat off of, the potential health value outweighs the extra dollar or two. If nothing else at least skip synthetically scented cleaners, which can irritate the skin and respiratory tract, says Martin Wolf, director of research and development for Seventh Generation. If your sink stinks, try cleaning your drain with a paste made of vinegar and baking soda. Give it time to work overnight. Drain cleaners are some of the nastiest chemicals around, and at \$7 for a 32-ounce bottle, they're not cheap. Enzyme-based cleaners like Nature's Miracle are another option: Findley says they'll eat away at odor-causing bacteria and any bits of food clogging the drain or disposal. Nature's Miracle costs more at \$12 for a 32-ounce bottle, but it has multiple uses beyond the kitchen. If neither approach works, sprinkle some baking soda on a halved lemon or orange and scrub out your sink basin, then toss the citrus in the disposal for a fresh scent.

Dishwashers

Many dishwasher detergents contain chemicals called phosphates that suck oxygen out of waterways, killing aquatic fish and plant life. Bio- and natural enzyme-based dishwasher detergents like Ecover get the job done without affecting water systems, and are comparable in cost: 25 Ecover tablets cost about \$7, while 20 tablets of conventional cleaner cost about \$6.50.

Stovetops & Ovens

Baked-on stove stains can be a real pain. "Grease-cutting" cleaners may make your stove shine, but they have decidedly less attractive health effects. Most contain glycol ethers, which Wolf says have been implicated in health problems ranging from reproductive damage to eye and respiratory-tract irritation. Instead, start by cleaning your stovetop after every meal before food bits and sauces are baked on. If you don't, you may have to combine some elbow grease with a homemade mix of vinegar and baking soda. Prefer a green grease fighter in a bottle? Go for Holy Cow. It's comparable to conventional cleaners at about

backyard and patio that is rented for \$1250 per month. Plus, there is a 1200 SF granny apartment that could be rented out for as much as \$2500 per month. Front yard boasts mature landscaping.

Offered at \$1,097,000

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Prime Turnkey Opportunity in Atascadero



9975 El Camino Real

Singular turnkey income opportunity available in beautiful Atascadero! Includes approx. 2300 sf. restaurant and an approximately 800 sf. 2/2 apartment with an approximately 800 SF storage unit for sale. The lot size is approximately .2801 acre.

*The restaurant building, the apartment and the storage unit are in excellent, highly upgraded condition.

*All the furniture, fixtures, & equipment in the restaurant are included in the price. The restaurant also has a private front patio.

*Perfect for the restaurateur with the vision to build a thriving business in the up & coming Atascadero Area.

*This restaurant has been a part of Atascadero for over 60 years. It is well established, has an incomparable location situated near the Chalk Mountain Golf Course and is also located adjacent to Hawkins Plaza. Offered at \$547,500

*Beer and Wine License Approved

\$3 for 32 ounces.

A baking soda-vinegar paste should do the job in the oven, as well. If you can, find a natural orange-based cleaner that contains no petroleum distillates like Earth Friendly Products Orange Plus (\$6 for 32 ounces). According to Findley, mixing that with baking soda can give your green oven cleaner extra oomph. Just spread the baking soda mixture in the oven, and let it sit overnight. Re-wet it in the morning. A few hours later wipe it out. It beats shelling out the \$6.50 for a fume-filled chemical cleaner.

Microwaves

To scrub stubborn microwave stains, just grab a super-absorbent sponge, wet it, and heat it in the microwave for 30 seconds. The steam from the sponge will soften the food bits, and the hot water inside it will make it easier to wipe off and disinfect your microwave's interior, all for the cost of a single sponge.

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The market is beginning to surge upward, now is an ideal time to put your house on the market, or make that investment you've been thinking about. And I am here to help make your real estate goals a reality.

To get a free consultation to see what your home is worth in today's market, or to take a look at the many excellent buying opportunities that are available right now, call me at (805) 962-3763 to set up a no-obligation appointment.

I look forward to serving you!

Martin Mielko

Broker

Diamond Properties



Call Martin Mielko at Diamond Properties at (805) 962-3763 for an appointment to view either property, or for more details.

About Martin Mielko

An expert in 1031 tax deferred exchange, short sales/REO's, and wealth creation through real estate investment, Martin has 40+ years in the industry and a proven track record for obtaining top dollar and completing successful transactions for a long list of loyal clientele.

To find out what your home may be worth, or to take advantage of the unique opportunities available in the real estate market today, call or email Martin now for a free consultation.

Sincerely,

Martin Mielko

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