

Simply Green

The Pinterest link to make these adorable kids' cooking and craft aprons from old recycled jeans is listed on the back.



Preble County Solid Waste District
101 E. Main Street
Eaton, Ohio 45320
937-456-6880

Website:
www.preblecountyrecycles.org
Find us on Facebook!

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4 Sustainable Spring Cleaning Ideas For Your Zero Waste Home...

Spring is coming and the Preble County Solid Waste District encourages you to use environmentally sustainable and eco-conscious strategies when spring cleaning and recycling in your home. Becoming a zero waste home is not hard, when you have the knowledge and resources to do it properly. Read the tips below to get started!

If you aspire to run a zero-waste household, sustainable household products that produce little to zero waste are key to accomplishing your goal.

There are cheap and sustainable ways to spring clean your home at little to zero cost. Here are some eco-friendly cleaning products and tips that adhere to zero waste living practices for spring cleaning your household. No spring-cleaning service necessary for a deep, zero-waste clean!

Spring clean your kitchen using a natural, environmentally-friendly product...

Your pantry or kitchen cupboards are a great starting point for sustainable spring cleaning. You can create homemade cleaners with products that you may already have. Your ally in cleaning your kitchen likely already lives in it: lemons! Lemons possess antiseptic and antibacterial properties and are a natural deodorizer. In short, lemons are a great green cleaner!

Here are a few ways to use lemons to spring clean your kitchen:

- Revive your pots' and pans' shine. Split a lemon, dip half in baking powder, and scour your copper pans and pots using the cut side of the lemon.
- Remove stains from containers. Using the other half, mix lemon juice with baking soda to make an environmentally friendly paste. Use it to rub out stubborn stains from plastic containers.
- Sanitize your cutting board. If you're left with one slice of lemon, rub it on your cutting board to sanitize.
- Need an all-around cleaning solution? Marinate the lemon peel in white vinegar for a couple of days, and then use the mixture as an eco-friendly cleaning solution. You can use this solution to clean the stove tops, your microwave, and other small appliances.
- Use the remaining lemon peels to freshen the air in your kitchen and home. Simmer the peels in water on your stove for a fragrant, natural air freshener.
- For those who want to go beyond the kitchen, you can use the lemon peel as a seed starter. Using the peel as a cup, you can poke holes for drainage and put soil in it in which you can bury seeds. Once winter ends, you can move the lemon cup itself to the garden and plant your seedlings.

You can squeeze so much out of this one fruit aiding your spring cleaning efforts while making zero waste!

De-clutter your wardrobe while producing little to zero waste toward sustainable spring cleaning...

Textiles are some of the most wasteful items because they generally cannot be recycled and are usually thrown in the trash.

- Clothes that are not too worn, old, or broken can be sorted and packed into a box for donation. Remember that items to donate should still be in good, useable condition. Clothing items can be donated to places like The Common Good of Preble County, located at 113 S. Cherry Street in Eaton. Donations are currently being accepted Mondays - Fridays 9:30 - 2:00 on the alley side of the building.
- Clothing that is in too bad of shape to donate can be cut up and used as cleaning rags, or can be repurposed into many usable, beautiful craft items! Pinterest is a great place to visit for craft plans using old clothing items. For example you can make a kids' cooking and crafting apron fashioned from a pair of old denim jeans! The link you would use is here: <https://happyhooligans.ca/repurposed-demin-aprons/>

Again, you don't need a professional organizer to help you clear out your wardrobe! Have the confidence to tackle it yourself and you will get much satisfaction from doing so!

Use environmentally friendly tools to go with your eco-friendly cleaning products...

As great as it is to use a lemon and vinegar solution to wipe down items, the tool you clean with matters too! Keep an eye on the objects you use for spring cleaning that can only be used once (single use items) or contain plastics. If you're working toward a zero waste household, you CAN accomplish this!

Sponges can be a very useful but problematic cleaning tool. Most sponges are made from plastic, meaning that as time goes on, the material degrades. As the sponge wears and tears, bits of plastic escape down the drain and into the environment causing havoc. Use a dish rag to clean your kitchen or a cleaning cloth instead. Need a rougher texture to scour pots and pans? Use a steel wool or even coarse salt.

Dusting can be done using a cloth rag. A neat trick is to use an old sock worn on your hand. Try to stay away from single use sheets for dusting. Just as you don't want the extra expense of a spring cleaning service, it's easy to stop spending on single use dry or wet sheets and paper towels; opt for reusable cloths instead.

Refer to Preble County Solid Waste District's disposal and drop-off information for materials that must go to waste...

For items that cannot be recycled and must be disposed of in the trash, be sure to check www.preblecountyrecycles.org for drop-off programs, landfill disposal information, and other types of disposal opportunities for items such as hazardous waste and electronics, etc.

An important part of making sure that materials get recycled properly is by not tossing non-recyclables in the recycling bin. Contaminating your recyclables with garbage can undo your recycling efforts and send a whole bunch of recyclables straight to the landfill. Want to know the current items that Rumpke takes for recycling at home and at the county's public recycling locations? Below is an acceptable items infographic to help you:

***Rumpke now accepts disposable paper, plastic, and aluminum cups in its recycling stream!**

PLEASE RECYCLE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

<p>PAPER</p>  <p>Cardboard should fit inside cart.</p>	<p>PLASTICS Bottles, jugs, tubs and cups</p>  <p>Reattach lid. Yogurt and fruit cups OK.</p>	<p>METAL CANS & CUPS</p>  <p>Non-hazardous, non-flammable material only.</p>	<p>GLASS BOTTLES & JARS</p>  <p>Any color.</p>	<p>CARTONS</p>  <p>Remove caps and straws.</p>
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Article adapted from:
<https://recyclecoach.com/blog/3-Sustainable-Spring-Cleaning-Ideas-For-Your-Zero-Waste-Home..>