

Protect the Planet Pesach Prep

Cleaning:

- If you must use commercial cleaners, open the windows and do not have children around until the room is aired out;
- If possible use eco-friendly products that are unscented or use baking soda with water for a paste that works well as a scrub cleanser; bon ami which is chlorine free is a safer abrasive product, 1/4 c. passover vinegar in warm water works great on floors; superwashing soda & borax are other safer cleansers that can be used for tougher jobs; passover vinegar and water wiped with newspaper work great for windows and mirrors
https://www.ecocenter.org/sites/default/files/Home%20Cleaning%20Recipes%2C%20EC_0.pdf
https://www.ewg.org/guides/cleaners/content/top_products#.Wq0xzijwaU
<https://www.ewg.org/healthyhomeguide/cleaners-and-air-fresheners/#.Wq0kKSjwaUk>
<https://www.ceh.org/news-events/blog/household-cleaners/>

Countertops:

- Granite and quartz counters can be kashered. If they are thoroughly cleaned and then kashered they can be left bare.
- If covering is essential try to avoid plastic & go with wax paper (unbleached if possible sold by companies including If You Care & Natural Value); some people buy reusable covers: Each Passover, many reams of aluminum foil are wasted attempting to cover counters, shelves. While aluminum may be necessary in very limited areas such as sinks and range tops that cannot be kashered, easier and more environmentally friendly alternatives are available for the remaining areas. For example: local kitchen re-decorating stores can cut attractive pieces of linoleum to fit counter tops that are simple to tape down and remove, easy to wipe clean during the holiday, and effortless to store. Similarly, thick plastic can be cut and reused for appropriate surface areas. Ultimately, fitted linoleum pieces or plastic sheets become an environmental and economical method of covering large surfaces.
<https://www.amazon.com/slp/extra-large-counter-mat/tvex8ng7u6g79yf>
(<http://canfeinesharim.org/passover-cleaning-tips/>)

Dishes:

- If affordable and space is not an issue use real dishes;
- If you must use disposable, opt for the type that can be composted and put in organics collection
https://www.staples.com/Sustainable-Earth-By-Staples-Compostable-Plates-and-Bowls/product_SS1056877
<https://www.verterra.com/>
<https://www.sustyparty.com/>
<https://www.ecoproductsstore.com/eco-colors.html>
<https://www.partycity.com/eco-friendly-white-tableware>

Table covering:

- If at all possible use cloth tablecloths and napkins, not disposable.
https://www.mychinet.com/products/tablecovers/white-tablecover?gclid=CjwKCAjw-bLVBRBMEiwAmKSB84AbQcgzPZ2yogayitQpNu3myiq9su7VvYni97Yj7fhdrf8g6pnrBRoC1DoQAvD_BwE
https://www.samsclub.com/sams/tablecover-wht-bioplasmprod14420230.ip?&source=ifpla&CAWELAID=730010300000359086&pid=_CSE_Google_PLA_1013571982&wl0=&wl1=g&wl2=c&wl3=239353224883&wl4=pla-314754000666&wl5=9004177&wl6=&wl7=&wl8=&wl9=pla&wl10=1247713&wl11=online&wl12=675156&wl13=&wl15=51568896884&wl17=1o5&veh=sem&source=ifpla

Food Waste:

- Food and food soiled napkins & paper plates can go into organics collection; coated plates and plastic backed paper tablecloths can't because of the plastic
<http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/site/services/food-scraps-and-yard-waste-page/guidelines-tips>



Health & Environment *Connection*

Home Cleaning Recipes

To create healthier cleaning solutions look no further than your own pantry. Combining specific common household ingredients—many of which are food-grade—will also save you money. Remember as with any cleaning agent, test on a small and unobtrusive spot to be sure you are satisfied with the results. Use clean, dry containers. Label all jars. Extend the life of any solution containing water by using distilled instead of spring or tap water.

Mildew Eraser

You don't need harsh chlorine bleach to kill mold and mildew. Instead **mix one of these with one cup of water** and spray onto mildew-covered surface (may also be used to prevent mildew):

- 1 teaspoon of tea tree oil; or
- 1 cup of hydrogen peroxide; or
- 1 cup distilled white vinegar; or
- 2 Tablespoons borax

Soft Scrub Paste

3 Tablespoons liquid castile soap (such as Dr. Bronner's Magic Soap® or Kirk's Castile®)
¼ cup baking soda
1 Tablespoon water
Mix to a paste consistency (Add another ½ Tablespoon water if necessary).

Glass Cleaner

Pour equal amounts of distilled white vinegar and water in a spray bottle. Wipe dry with crumpled newspaper, a lint-free soft cloth, or use a squeegee.

Brass and Copper Cleaner

lemon juice
salt or baking soda
Mix to a paste consistency.
Rub on, rinse with water, and dry.

Chrome Cleaner

1 Tablespoon lemon juice
1 quart water
Mix. Apply with a soft cloth.

Wood Polish

2 parts vegetable or olive oil.
1 part lemon juice
Mix. Apply with a soft cloth.

Antimicrobial Spray(s)

For rinsing produce and killing germs on food preparation surfaces.

Add distilled white vinegar to a spray bottle. Add hydrogen peroxide (standard 3% drug store strength) to a separate spray bottle. Spray one then the other. Which one comes first does not matter. Be sure to keep them in separate bottles. These each kill Salmonella, E. coli and other pathogens. According to the USDA's Agricultural Research Service the combination of the two increases the effectiveness, killing 99.99% of Salmonella on apple slices.

All Purpose Spray

1 teaspoons borax
¼ - ½ teaspoon washing soda
¼ teaspoon liquid castile soap
10 drops of essential oil (optional)
Put borax and washing soda in spray bottle. Add 8 oz. hot water. Shake to dissolve. Add liquid soap and essential oils. Leave out washing soda if using on fiberglass—it will scratch.