

Spring tips

Cleanup clues, from the kitchen to the laundry room.



■ Windows are best cleaned on a cloudy day. The sun can cause glass to dry too fast, resulting in streaks.

■ Crumpled newspaper makes a great way to dry windows. It's less costly than paper towels.

■ Wash mini-blinds in the bathtub with a little dishwasher powder. Since it doesn't produce lots of suds, it makes the blinds easier to rinse.

■ Clean glass vases using a capful of ammonia and hot water. Rinse thoroughly.

■ A cloth dampened with ammonia or vinegar cleans chrome and brings back the shine.

■ Keep laundry static-free by dampening an old face cloth in liquid softener and tossing it in the dryer. Saves on those

expensive dryer sheets.

■ When you have only a few items of laundry to dry, try placing a thick towel in with the clothes. The towel absorbs moisture and the extra bulk will help keep things tumbling freely instead of clumping together in the dryer.

■ Turn your clothes inside out before washing, so any lint will appear on the inside and not the outside of the clothes.

■ Clean the lint trap of your dryer regularly, since a clogged filter can pose a real fire hazard, and slows the drying of your clothes. Also check that the outside vent is clear.

■ Keep ants from invading by sprinkling pepper around the cracks they use to gain access to your house.

■ If you need to clean brass, you probably already have an environmentally friendly cleaner in your kitchen. Rub the item with anything containing a natural acid – lemon juice, ketchup, Tabasco sauce, vinegar – even milk – to remove tarnish. However, check first to see if the brass is coated with a protective lacquer.