

by Nancy Mann Jackson

NATURALLY CLEAN

New **environmentally-safe products** make housecleaning friendlier

Most people clean their homes based on appearance only, never considering the cleanliness of the home can actually affect the health of their families. "Research shows that even in a home that looks completely clean, unseen dirt and pollutants can cause problems for the people who live there," says Mike Braun, owner of Citrus Solution Carpet Cleaning, Birmingham's first all-natural carpet cleaning company, founded in 1990.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lists the quality of air inside homes as the fourth largest environmental threat in the

country. Not only can carpets, rugs and upholstery trap allergy-causing contaminants and pollutants, but many of the products used to clean homes actually include harmful chemicals. If you'd like to free your home from chemicals and allergens that can clog the air and even cause disease, try going natural. A number of environmentally-friendly products are now available and many actually simplify household chores while infusing your home with the scents of natural goodness. Here's a roundup of some of the best cleaning products that take their ingredients straight from nature.

 <p>Citrus Solution Carpet Cleaning</p>	 <p>ToiletClean</p>	 <p>Oxy-Boost Destainer and Deodorizer Oxygen Bleach</p>	 <p>Orange 100 Cleaner and Degreaser</p>	 <p>Method Daily Shower Cleaner</p>	 <p>Mrs. Meyer's Clean Day Dish Soap Liquid and Stainless Steel Cleaner</p>
<p>Locally owned and operated, Citrus Solution Carpet Cleaning provides all-natural carpet, rug and upholstery cleaning services for Birmingham's Over-the-Mountain communities. Made with naturally-occurring D-Limonene, a citrus oil, the company's one-of-a-kind cleaning solution helps fight allergies, improve indoor air quality and leaves no residue — only a fresh, citrus smell. The best part? After each cleaning, you get your own bottle of Citrus Solution for spot cleaning until the next service.</p>	<p>The first and only chemical-free, nontoxic toilet cleaner available, ToiletClean claims to kill bacteria on contact. ToiletClean cartridges contain hydro-mineral magnets that prevent bacteria and mildew in water from bonding together and sticking to the sides of the bowl. Once you drop a ToiletClean cartridge into your toilet, it's guaranteed to last for 50,000 flushes or five years. Manufactured by Impex Systems Group, ToiletClean is available at The Home Depot.</p>	<p>A natural alternative to chlorine bleaches, which is toxic for humans, animals and plants, Natural Choices' Oxy-Boost uses oxygen for de-staining and deodorizing. Especially useful for whitening laundry and pre-soaking heavily stained clothing, Oxy-Boost can also be used in other areas, such as the kitchen, for fresh-smelling, stain-free dishes and in the yard for deodorizing garbage cans and lawn furniture.</p>	<p>Tackle greasy and grimy dirt with this Natural Choices product made from acids found in orange peels and pine trees. Because Orange 100 is concentrated and includes 100 percent active ingredients, its maker claims it will last exponentially longer than other cleaners because just a small bit of the cleaner is sufficient for most jobs. In addition to grease and grime, Orange 100 can naturally clean stains such as crayon, lipstick, oil, tar, blood and adhesives.</p>	<p>Nontoxic and biodegradable, this shower spray is derived from natural products and claims to eliminate the need to scrub your shower. Ever. By spraying a fine mist of Method Daily Shower on all wet surfaces after each shower, you'll prevent soap scum and dissolve mildew, hard water stains and lime stains.</p>	<p>Inspired by the smells of an herb garden, Mrs. Meyer's products are actually scented with oils from garden flowers rather than harmful chemicals. The Dish Soap includes Soap Bark Extract, another garden ingredient that is one of nature's best degreasers. And the Stainless Steel Cleaner uses olive oil and is free of petroleum distillates. It promises to reduce finger marks and leave the shiniest shine on your stainless steel.</p>
<p>citrusBirmingham.com</p>	<p>homedepot.com</p>	<p>oxyboost.com</p>	<p>oxyboost.com</p>	<p>methodhome.com</p>	<p>mrsmeyers.com</p>