

# Spring cleaning

Finally it looks like spring is here and so it's that time of the year again – spring-cleaning! Clean up your act with Green Magazines top tips on how to spruce up your home for the warmer seasons.

- 1. Open up the windows**—When cleaning out all the nooks and crannies in your home forget the air fresheners and scents – instead let the natural scent of blooming flowers and fresh cut grass grace through your hallways and rooms. You'll also light up your home and can flick off the lights.
- 2. Ditch the dirty laundry habits** - Save energy and wash full loads with cold water and hang the laundry outside in the sun to dry. The sun is a natural brightener and will whiten your whites on its own. And for all those clothes that have outgrown you or your style, they'll fit someone else, so be sure to donate them. Hold on to a few old shirts for cleaning rags.
- 3. Wipe down surfaces with natural products** - Scrub down your home with staple products already in your kitchen.  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of baking soda mixed with 1 litre of water can be used as a general cleaner for all surfaces in your home, including inside the microwave and fridge. One cup of white vinegar in one cup of water will also clean surfaces and appliances, including mirrors, stainless steel and laminate.
- 4. Sponge the grunge for a no-waste clean**—Opt for reusable sponges and cloths as oppose to paper towel now that you've made green sprays.
- 5. Go Paperless**—If you haven't already, take this opportunity to go for paperless billing. Your counter space will thank you and so will the environment. As for all that junk mail that piles up and settles in the recycling bin, eliminate incoming junk by adding a sticker to your mailbox or by using registering with Australian Direct Marketing Association's 'Do Not Mail'. You'll stop receiving mail from companies you don't directly deal with.
- 6. Redecorate with eco-friendly paint**—Household paints unfortunately contain many types of toxic chemicals. If you're looking for a fresher style this spring, move to water-based paint with low-VOC.

