

Greener Cleaning Products

There are many products on the market for homes that are great for cleaning but not necessarily good for indoor air quality. Many Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are in that “clean” home smell. The following are some alternative or “green” products to consider.

Tea Tree Oil is not that common but has many useful applications as a “green” cleaner. It can be combined with water in a spray bottle and used as a bathroom/kitchen cleaner. Tea Tree Oil can also be used as a mold and mildew remover. It naturally cleans mold and deters further mold growth. Make sure to follow instructions for specific uses since concentrated tea tree oil can be hazardous.

Citrus fruits such as lemons and oranges can be used as natural degreasers and leave a fresh “clean” scent. Soaking in lemon juice is an effective way to remove rust from kitchen utensils. Lemon slices can remove hard water stains from sinks. Oranges can be used with vinegar as a multipurpose cleaner. The oranges mask the sharp vinegar smell.

Finally, baking soda and peroxide can be used instead of scouring cleaners in most cases. It works great for removing built up grime on stove tops and baking pans. The mixture can set for a period of time on the surface without having any negative effects on air quality or to the pots and pans.

Keep in mind that many green cleaners are not necessarily “No VOC” products. However, most of these green cleaners typically do emit lower levels of VOCs and less toxic VOCs (e.g., alcohols and terpenes vs. chlorinated compounds). Regardless of the type of cleaning products that are used, all cleaning activities should be performed with appropriate ventilation.

About Prism Analytical Technologies, Inc.

Prism Analytical Technologies, Inc. is a leading consultative air testing laboratory in the United States that is devoted to the chemical identification and analysis of contaminants in the air. We are a recognized leader in the development and deployment of ambient air testing methodologies for Fortune 100 and 500 companies, industrial hygienists, and environmental consultants. Prism's science-based technologies and wide range of air testing support help clients solve indoor air quality, process control, industrial, and environmental challenges.