



Make the world a greener place with our top tips and great buys

Have an eco spring clean

Did you know that vacuum cleaners are one of the highest power consuming appliances in the household? Gtech estimates that if 20 million homes made the switch from their standard vacuum cleaner to a powered sweeper then 1.11 TWh (Terra Watt) could be saved, which is the equivalent of UK households turning their TVs off for 21 years. So, if you're in need of a new vacuum cleaner, the Gtech SW20 power sweeper is lightweight, bagless, cordless and rechargeable making it a great eco choice. Its eco-fast charge station allows the sweeper to fully charge from empty in five hours, and the built-in Germguard traps and kills over 99.9 per cent of bacteria.

Gtech SW20 power sweeper, £69.95, available from Comet, Currys, John Lewis, House of Fraser, Debenhams, Robert Dyas and The Range



Feature Emma Foale

Choose sustainable utensils

Whether you're preparing a meal for guests or for your family, this serving set will jazz up your table with its leopard-like pattern and smooth-to-touch appearance. It's made from



fairly-sourced and sustainable coco wood from coconut palm trees which is also hard-wearing and resistant to heat and liquids. The 10-piece set includes scoops for sugar, tea and coffee, a butter spreader and mini condiment spoons. Plus, by applying any type of cooking oil into the cutlery every two to three months, you can revive the wood and help it regain its natural texture which will help your cutlery to last for many years to come.

Coco wood serving cutlery set by **Nom Living**, £19.75, Not On The High Street

Give your home a fresh new scent



Ditch your conventional cleaning products this spring, and choose Greenscents. This British range uses organic, Fairtrade essential oils providing every clean with a hint of fresh fragrances including citrus, mint, herbal and lavender. The Nonscents range is great for anyone who suffers from sensitive skin or allergies to organic essential oils. For more information, visit www.greenscents.co.uk. Plus, 10 lucky *Your Home* readers have the chance to win five bottles of Greenscents organic cleaning essentials in a selection of beautiful-smelling essential oil blends (see image). To enter, please send your name and address to Your Home March Greenscents Giveaway, HBM Competitions, PO Box 11098, Colchester, Essex, CO1 9NE before 31st March 2012.

READER TREAT

Greenscents cleaning range, prices start from £2.50 for the 500ml washing up liquid, all available from independent stores across the UK

Switch it off

WWF's Earth Hour is a simple idea that's become a global phenomenon, with hundreds of millions of people turning off their lights to show they want to create a brighter future for the planet. Spanning a record 138 countries in 2011, this year's Earth Hour is set to be even bigger. Take part in the next Earth Hour on 31st March 2012 at 8.30pm. For more information about WWF Earth Hour go to www.wwf.org.uk/earthhour.

Expert tip



Rob Falconer, Managing Director of iGO EMEA, tells us why we should switch to rechargeable batteries:

'With the iGo green rechargeable alkaline batteries you can recharge them over and over again, instead of having to go out and buy dozens of disposable batteries. They pay for themselves in about two charges and can last up to seven years. In addition to saving money, you can also feel good about doing your part to save the planet, because every time you use an iGo green rechargeable alkaline battery in place of a high-toxic alternative, you'll be helping to keep more than 40 disposable batteries from being thrown into a landfill.' iGo green batteries are available as AA and AAA. For more info visit www.igo.co.uk.

WEBSITE WATCH... www.comparemysolar.co.uk

Research by CompareMySolar has shown that domestic solar panel installations in the UK dropped by 30 per cent in 2011, and further drops are expected after the Feed-in-Tariff cuts. Visit CompareMySolar.co.uk, a comparison website for domestic solar panels, where you can find installers in your area based on price and financial return. Plus, you can receive online quotes from local installers, including return calculations on your roof.

