



For those interested in greener and more natural cleaning products, here are a few recipes to make your own. (Remember to do a spot test first to make certain the surface doesn't discolor or otherwise react to new products.)

All-Purpose Cleaner

9 parts water

1 part white vinegar

Mix ingredients in a spray bottle and clean away!

For particularly nasty messes, such as a countertop after you've handled raw meat on it, squirt straight white vinegar on the surface, and follow with a squirt of hydrogen peroxide to knock out virtually all germs.

Lemon Oil Duster

10 drops pure lemon oil

2 Tablespoons lemon juice

A few drops olive oil

Use a clean recycled flannel cotton cloth to mop up dusty surfaces.

Multi-Surface Cleaner

If you need an all-purpose cleaner with a little more grit than the vinegar/water solution, try this natural cleaning concoction.

2 teaspoons borax

1 teaspoon washing soda (not baking soda)

Hot water

4 Tablespoons vinegar

1/2 teaspoon natural liquid soap

1/4 teaspoon tea tree oil

8 drops rosemary oil

8 drops tangerine oil

8 drops lavender oil

Dissolve borax and washing soda (find them in your store's laundry aisle) into 2 cups of very hot water, strain the mixture through a very fine sieve, and funnel it into a 1-quart spray bottle (or forget the sieve and just pour it in slowly, leaving behind any undissolved powder). Add the rest of the ingredients and shake to blend. Top off with more hot water and shake again.



excerpts © rodalenews.com



Love doesn't make the world go 'round.

Love is what makes the ride worthwhile.

~Franklin P. Jones

Easy Fresh Strawberry Pie

© TasteofHome.com



1 unbaked pastry shell (9 inches)

3/4 cup sugar

2 tablespoons cornstarch

1 cup water

1 package (3 ounces) strawberry gelatin

4 cups sliced fresh strawberries

Fresh mint, optional

Line unpricked pastry shell with a double thickness of heavy-duty foil. Bake at 450° for 8 minutes. Remove foil; bake 5 minutes longer. Cool on a wire rack. In a saucepan, combine the sugar, cornstarch and water until smooth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat; stir in gelatin until dissolved. Refrigerate for 15-20 minutes or until slightly cooled. Meanwhile, arrange strawberries in the crust. Pour gelatin mixture over berries. Refrigerate until set. Garnish with mint if desired.

WILLOW REALTY 2014 STAR AWARDS



(2) ★★

Debbie Teague

★ = \$1 Million in sales



★★★★ (4)

Nancy C. Rowe



From the Broker's Desk
Nancy C. Rowe

Mr. Groundhog's shadow indicates another six weeks of winter but that doesn't mean you

can't be making plans for spring and summer now. There has been an increase in market activity over the last couple of years and with the forecast of rising interest rates this year, serious buyers will be aggressively searching for housing. Studies have shown that April, May and June are the most active sales months of the year so be ready if this might be the year to move forward on your plans to sell. Walk around your house and grounds with the mindset of a buyer and what will they see? Then take these winter months to prepare your house for spring marketing. Buyers like a "move in ready" property but that doesn't mean you have to invest in a pricey new kitchen or new bathrooms. A very effective and inexpensive way to enhance marketability is to declutter. Inventory your closets, attic, garage and basement and throw away items of no value, give items that you no longer use to charities, shelters or churches, host a garage sale and organize and box up remaining personal property. Overcrowding rooms with surplus furniture needs to be addressed by storing elsewhere even if you have to rent storage space. Now buyers will have the perception of more spacious rooms and good storage as they tour your house. The adage that kitchens and baths sell houses is true but there are moderate improvements that will improve the presentation without excessive costs. Old wood cabinets can be painted or new cabinet doors hung on existing cabinets with new hardware added to refresh the cabinets or vanities. Replace stained or damaged counters or flooring as the cost will be recovered with higher offers. Simple improvements like new faucets, re-grouting or caulking and new light fixtures greatly improve appearances. A coat of neutral paint on the walls and clean carpet are other ways to give the interior a bright, fresh look. Often the emphasis falls on the interior while the exterior is overlooked. The outside of your house creates the first impression in the mind of the buyer. Make sure that siding, trim and shutters are well painted. Mildew likes to form on the shaded sides of vinyl or aluminum siding during the damp winter months but a good pressure washing will wash the mildew away. While the pressure washer is out, you might want to pressure wash porches and decking. Front doors are now available with many design enhancements and a new door can often dress up the front appearance. If you have a front opening garage, you might consider replacing the garage door if it is showing its age. Buyers are not impressed when gutters are overflowing with leaves and living growth so clean out those gutters or replace damaged guttering. Check your shrubbery and trees for encroachment into siding or on roofing and trim as needed. Daffodils, hyacinths and tulips herald the coming of spring so be sure that your flower beds are ablaze with color and well mulched. To a buyer, a manicured exterior indicates a "move in ready" interior. When preparing a property to sell, I recommend that you enhance what you have without excessive expenditures in order to receive the highest return on your investment. Don't hesitate to contact any of the experienced Agents of WILLOW Realty to discuss market trends or a marketing program.