



Green Shuls Committee (GSC)
"Keshher Green Kleaning" for Pesach

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March, 2008

The Keshher Green Shuls Committee has made many strides over the last two years since its inception. Our mission is to help Keshher fulfill our responsibilities as Jews to protect Hashem's creation by reducing waste, saving energy, using more environmentally responsible products and supplies, protecting the health of the environment in general, our community, and most importantly, our children. With Pesach just around the corner, all of us are starting to clean out and organize for the removal or sale of chametz and doing major Spring cleaning in general. Here are some tips on how to clean up without jeopardizing the health of our families or the environment

Pesach Green Cleaning:

Cleaning products used in the home often contain airborne contaminants such as ammonia, zinc, and aerosol anti-bacterial agents like triclosan. In addition, there may also be 2-butoxyethanol, Ethylene Glycol, Trisodium phosphate, Nonylphenol ethoxylate (NPE) or alkylphenol ethoxylate (APE), and chlorine bleach – many of which can cause serious health problems with long term exposure including diseases and conditions such as asthma, cancer and decreased fertility. Ammonia and zinc are found in many glass cleaners, and floor and carpet cleaners respectively, and are known respiratory irritants. Triclosan is used in anti-bacterial hand soaps and aerosol disinfectants. The later is known to convert to dioxin when exposed to sunlight. Dioxin is one of the most carcinogenic substances known to man. Triclosan also has been shown to increase the numbers of resistant organisms in our environment.

So here's what the Keshher GSC recommends:

1. **Replace household cleaners with natural alternatives. Look for items from brands such as:** Greening the Cleaning®, Begley's Best, Dr. Bronner's, Method, Seventh Generation, and Solay. All work well and do a good job of eliminating toxic ingredients.
2. **Replace anti-bacterial soaps with natural alternatives.** Keep in mind, as long as surfaces are kept clean and dry, most harmful organisms cannot survive. Therefore, harmful agents and cleaners are most often not necessary. Goto: <http://www.cosmeticsdatabase.com/> for more info on the safety of personal care products including everything from soaps and shampoos to cosmetics.

NOTE: Keshher is a re-seller for the Greening the Cleaning® products. We will be placing an order on April 1st. If you would like to purchase these items through Keshher, and help raise funds for the shul while going green, please contact David Marks ASAP at: dmarks@humed.com

Recycling:

Along with Green Cleaning, our efforts to really clean out the house for Pesach often results in getting rid of old items we no longer use. This may include home electronics. These items are packed with toxic chemicals and heavy metals that leach into our waters and food chain and should not be placed in the trash. Here is what the Keshher GSC recommends instead:

Englewood Electronics Recycling Day: (see next page)

Englewood Electronics Recycling Day – For Englewood Residents

When: Sunday, March 30, 2008 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Where: At the Department of Public Works, 175 South Van Brunt Street

How:

Load up your vehicle with those obsolete electronics lurking in closets and basements, and drive to the Department of Public Works. Staff of Advanced Recovery Inc. will unload the items, sort them, and load them onto trucks. They'll go to a central sorting facility and on to appropriate recovery and re-use operations. Electronics can contain lead and mercury and other substances hazardous to the environment but they can be reclaimed! Glass, plastic, steel, aluminum, copper wire can be recycled! Protect the environment and keep toxic waste out of our landfills.

What:

Computers: Monitors, Televisions (not flat screen or consoles), CPUs, keyboards, mice, Radios, Laptops, DVD and CD players, Printers, copiers, scanners, Stereos, Cables, Audio and video tapes, Fax machines, Video games, PDAs, Pagers, Camcorders, Cell phones, and Telephones.

For more details go to: http://cityofenglewood.org/electronics_recycling.pdf

Tenafly Residents:

For those members residing in Tenafly, your regular recycling program can accommodate most of these items. Go here for more details: <http://www.tenaflynj.org/content/56/78/665/default.aspx>

Bergen County:

And finally, the next Household Hazardous Waste Disposal day at Bergen County Community College is 2 weeks before Pesach, on April 6. Details on what you can bring there are at: <http://www.bcua.org/Sections-read-57.html>

Thank you all for helping our community get clean for Pesach while going green and protecting the health of our families and the environment.

Brought to you by: the Keshet Green Shuls Committee

To get involved and help the Keshet Green Shuls Committee, or if you have any questions, please contact David Marks at: david@thegivingweb.com or by cell at 516-850-8508.