



## Spring to It: Cleaning Tips That Help Take Care of Texas

Developing simple, smart spring cleaning and home improvement habits can make a big difference for the environment and your pocketbook.

- Use less toxic cleaning products and only buy what you need. Clean with reusable rags instead of paper towels. When done, take unused cleaners to a local community household hazardous waste (HHW) collection center. [Find HHW collection centers or events in your area.](#)
- Donate any unwanted clothing, shoes, bedding, and furniture. Donated items don't have to be pristine. Most charitable organizations have textile-specific recyclers who accept their merchandise in bulk and ship to other reuse-markets or recycle the material.
- Donate or recycle used computers and TVs. Texas law requires TV and computer-equipment manufacturers to offer recycling opportunities to consumers. To learn more, visit [TexasRecyclesComputers.org](#) or [TexasRecyclesTVs.org](#).
- Check for leaks. A faucet leaking at a rate of one drop per second can waste up to 3,000 gallons of water per year. That's the amount of water needed to take more than 180 showers! Fixing hot-water leaks can save up to \$35 per year in utility bills.
- As you wash and put away your winter wardrobe, wash only full loads and use cold water. Washing full loads, as opposed to partial loads, can save more than 3,400 gallons of water each year. Using cold water instead of hot or warm can save more than \$30 annually. Hang a clothesline and air-dry your clothes. Clothes dryers account for six percent of residential electricity consumption.
- Install a ceiling fan. Ceiling fans allow you to raise your thermostat setting about four degrees without discomfort. Energy Star certified ceiling fan/light units are 60 percent more efficient than conventional fan/light units, which can save you more than \$15 per year on utility bills.

Put a Take Care of Texas license plate on your vehicle and show everyone on the road that you Take Care of Texas. \$22 of the \$30 plate fee goes to support the Take Care of Texas program. [Order yours](#) today!



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