

bathing beauty

Transform bathroom tiles or add a border to your kitchen backsplash. These DIY peel-and-stick decals hold up to humidity, wipe clean and come in three patterns and four colors to match your decor. Tile Tattoos, Mibo, from \$16/6, 2jane.com.

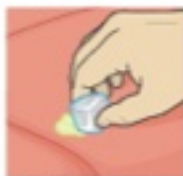


breathe easy

Stop sniffles caused by pet dander and dust mites. Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter; wash sheets in hot water weekly and avoid feather-filled furniture, says Jeff Mays, coauthor of *Healthy Home Tips* (The Johns Hopkins University Press). Also try spritzing carpet, cushions and curtains with Clorox's new Anywhere Anti-Allergen Fabric Spray, \$3, Target stores.

sweet solution

Watch sticky hard candy, gum and caramel stains disappear like magic this Halloween with a trick from the cleaning pros at Weiman Products.



1 Rub with an ice cube to solidify.



2 Carefully remove with a dull knife.



3 Dab with diluted laundry detergent.



4 Pat with a damp, clean cloth.



bookmark it

A room redo runs more smoothly if you have a plan. Ty Pennington offers a 12-step strategy in his new book *Good Design Can Change Your Life* (Simon & Schuster). For starters, he says, collect photos, fabric and color swatches that catch your eye and use them for inspiration.



IT'S EASY BEING GREEN

Stop trashing the environment. Unlike traditional garbage bags that take hundreds of years to decompose, this recycled-plastic version has an FDA-approved additive that helps it decompose in less than two years. Toss kitchen bags. Perf Go Green, \$5, amazon.com.



Top Silver Polishes

'Tis the season for fancy dinners—and the annoying chore of polishing flatware.

We tested 21 products, including liquids, pastes, wipes, and gloves, to see how quickly, easily, and thoroughly they removed tarnish—and even if they kept it from coming back.

BEST IN SHOW

Weiman Royal Sterling Silver Polish (\$4.99) earned a nearly perfect score in our test, removing tarnish most effectively and efficiently. This liquid spiffed up our silverware fastest (less than one minute per piece) and did the best job of the winners at retarding tarnish's return, even after six weeks.

RUNNER-UP

The Twinkle Silver Polish Kit (\$3), which includes a thick cream polish and sponge applicator, really buffed up the patina, especially on the more heavily-tarnished pieces. The Twinkle was the fastest acting of the pastes, burnishing each utensil in about a minute and a half. While it took a bit longer to use than the Weiman, it left behind a slightly better shine.

CONVENIENCE CHOICE

Connoisseurs Silver Wipes (\$6 for 10 cloth wipes) did a very good job without the mess of liquid or paste, and were especially useful for getting between fork tines. While their cleaning results weren't quite as stellar (or as fast, at about two minutes per item) as our other picks, these easily beat the other wipes tested.

GHRI ADVICE

After use, store silver in special antitarnish bags, or wrap in acid-free tissue paper and seal in zipper-topped plastic bags.

