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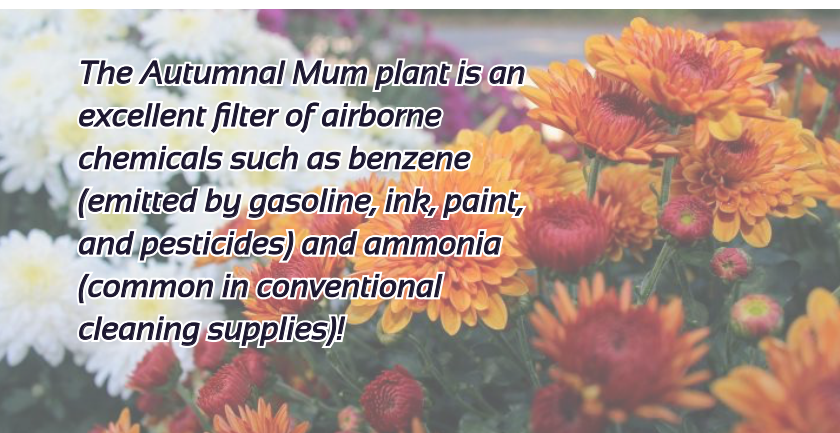
Customer Appreciation!



*This can be a challenging time to run a business for sure, and Cindy and I just want you to know that we are so grateful to ALL of our Sponge & Sparkle family – our sensational Sparklers who are out there every day, working so hard to bring the magic, our long time clients who stay with us over the long haul and through the ups and downs, our new clients who chose us out of a plethora of other choices. **AND THIS IS OUR 40TH YEAR OF BUSINESS!!!!!!!***

I feel that we are thriving with a lot of positive energy, we have a lovely new office, and are looking forward every day to the blessings we can give, and the blessings that we humbly receive in this work. It is truly a labor of love for us. We celebrated our 40th with a fun outing last month with our staff, at Jones Bridge park with BBQ, a professional magician (who, to our delight, even produced a rabbit and a dove out of thin air!), a photo booth, piñatas, and lots of laughter. Here's to many more years of Sparkling and Shining!

The Autumnal Mum plant is an excellent filter of airborne chemicals such as benzene (emitted by gasoline, ink, paint, and pesticides) and ammonia (common in conventional cleaning supplies)!



This is from my 2009 Fall newsletter. I just had to repeat it – it's that good!

In case you need another reason to reinforce the importance of a clean home:

A soon-to-be-published study by a Brigham Young University professor has found that "people are unconsciously fairer and more generous when they are in clean smelling environments. The research found a dramatic improvement in ethical behavior with just a few spritzes of citrus scented Windex".

(reported in The Christian Science Monitor)

Who knew that a clean home is not ONLY a healthy home, but a home that the civility of our species depends on?! And think what we could do with this knowledge – if all new cars came with an automatic fragrance dispenser wouldn't that mean the end of road rage? And hiring a cleaning service could not possibly be considered a luxury, but would be a person's moral duty! Something to think about!

If your outdoor cushions are mildewy after our humidity this summer, try this:

I thought I could solve this problem by washing the cushions in hot water and then drying, but no, didn't work. Try this: Combine half a cup of hydrogen peroxide or white vinegar with a cup of water. Shake it up to combine. Spray on mold and dirt, and do not rinse. Or treat mold with a spray mixture of 2 teaspoons tea tree oil and 2 cups of water. The mold and strong smell will dissipate in a few days, and should be much improved.

Solutions to Common Holiday Dinner Problems?

(Real Simple Magazine)

Problem: You don't know what size turkey to buy?

Solution: If you only need enough for just the dinner, buy $\frac{3}{4}$ lb to 1 lb for every person. If you want enough for leftovers, calculate 1 lb or slightly more per person. And if you need a large turkey, consider buying two 10 to 12 lb. birds and roasting them side to side. Small turkeys cook and defrost much more easily than supersize ones and they stay moister.

Problem: The turkey is still frozen?

Solution: Give it a cold bath! Water is a much better conductor of heat than air in the fridge so this method works faster. Fill the sink or large bucket with cool water and plunge the bird in, in the original wrapping, breast side down. If the turkey has been defrosting in the fridge for several days a mere half-hour may do the trick. If you need to defrost a fully frozen turkey, allow half an hour per pound. The USDA advises to change the water every half-hour or so. Never thaw a turkey at room temperature.

Problem: To baste or not to baste?

Solution: Frequent basting is a hassle and opening and closing the oven door can wreck havoc with the oven temperature. Since the purpose of basting is to facilitate browning and crisping, rubbing the bird generously with butter before you put it in the oven will do the trick almost as well. Be sure to dry the bird first or the butter will not adhere.

Problem: Flavorless Gravy?

Solution: Reach for a splash of fortified alcohol – Madeira, sherry or port will lend a mellow richness to your gravy. To ensure a better gravy next time-boost the flavor of the pan drippings by stewing thickly sliced carrots, onions, and celery in the pan beneath the raw bird. Add just enough water to cover the bottom of the pan and while the turkey roasts, the veggies will caramelize, giving depth to the flavor of the drippings. Strain and discard the vegetables or puree them into the gravy for a sweet thick sauce.

Give us a review on Google and we will happily give you \$10 off your next cleaning AND your Sparkler gets a \$10 tip!

<https://g.page/spongeandsparkle?share>

And as always, if you refer us to your friend or neighbor who uses us, you get \$50 off our next visit!

Did you know that Spring is NOT actually the best time of year to do a "spring cleaning"?

The reason? In winters past, homes were heated with smelly, dirty fuels like kerosene, coal burning stoves & fireplaces. By Spring, homes could be covered in soot & grime but they could be opened back up. Thus, it's natural to think of a "spring" clean. Now our fuels are much cleaner & healthier so our homes don't get nearly as dirty in winter. Also, since houses are closed up, they get less dirty; thus, making Fall the better time of year to deep clean!

Thank You. Thank You. Thank You. for Supporting this Small Business !!!!!



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