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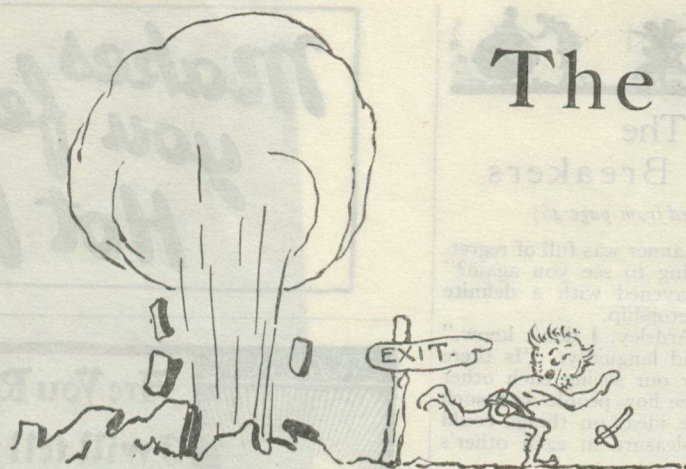
## Have You Begun to Think About A St. Patrick's Party

Everywoman's World Service Dept. has prepared a little booklet for aspiring hostesses. It deals with costumes, decorations, menus and games. It will save you time and trouble.

Subscribers, send along 10c., a coupon and a self-addressed envelope with it.

Address requests to:—

**Everywoman's World Service Dept.**  
259 Spadina Avenue, Toronto



**E**ARLIER than the first robin, earlier than the most daring crocus that pushes its gay blossom up through ground that still seems to us frost-bound and forbidding, earlier even than the great inner urge that drives us to our Milliner's—earlier than all these, comes woman's hankering to "spring clean."

Perhaps you are one of those really advanced housekeepers who have relegated the old horror of a great seasonal upheaval to the limbo of forgotten—or forbidden—things. Then, more power to you! Your family will not feel that they are outcasts, subsisting upon cold snacks, in the way wherever they go, the comforts of home pulled up by the roots and chaos in command.

No—there is little to be said for the old fashioned, general "spring cleaning," and much in favour of the more painless modern methods of "a little at a time"—and that little done with the aid of many labour saving contrivances.

Whatever your method, however, you know and I know that there is a quality in the late winter sunshine—which we generally flatter by calling it early spring sunshine—that shows up every flaw in the armour of our household cleanliness. To scour and freshen becomes the dominant passion of our lives, no matter how we do it—or how we hate it!

There are many little tricks to lighten the labour of putting the spring shine on our houses.

For instance: what of all the light woodwork and the painted furniture that has come into our lives to brighten and adorn them? The blight of the winter's coal dust (especially the soft coal that so many of us have become acquainted with this year), has settled upon them. It has a sticking quality that soft water and mild soap, usually quite adequate for this purpose, do not quite overcome.

Whiting—just cheap, ordinary whiting from your grocer or hardware merchant—is useful here. Make a paste of it, or dip your cloth, moistened in soft, hot water, into the powder and rub the painted surfaces smartly with it. You will find that the clear colour comes miraculously to the surface. There are some very good paint-cleaning preparations on the market, too, which will prove most effective in removing the stubborn film of soil which dims light woodwork.

The metal trim about the house—brass fixtures, nickelled taps and stove finishings, and so forth, demand fairly

constant attention. A good brass polish is necessary for all unlacquered brasses; where the surface is lacquered, simply wipe off with a cloth wrung out of clean, sudsy water.

Nickelled surfaces should be washed occasionally with hot soap-suds, then rinsed with very hot water. To polish, rub on a paste made of whiting, or whiting wet with liquid household ammonia and lard; leave a little while, rub off thoroughly and buff up with a soft cloth.

**T**HE kitchen pots and pans are, of course, kept in good condition all the time. No sink is equipped without a package of a thoroughly dependable abrasive, for every day use, in keeping clean the sink itself and the utensils in daily use. Occasionally stubborn stains appear on enamelled and aluminum ware. Granite will yield to the smart application of the abrasive; use a skewer or toothpick on the seams. If food has been burnt on, put a little fat into the pan and put it over very slow heat. This will soften the burnt substance so that it may be easily

removed. Aluminum stains are best removed by cooking something acid in the pan—rhubarb answers splendidly. Remember that it is important to use a neutral soap on aluminum—never a strong one; and that the abrasive powder you use to scour it should be mild in character, too. A coarse powder, filled with sharp particles, will scratch this soft metal—choose rather one which is fine, white and powdery in character, the particles small and flaky, never rocky and jagged. powder, said to be of volcanic origin, is largely used as a household abrasive, and lends itself to a multitude of uses, because it achieves efficiency without marring or scratching porcelains, enamels, painted surfaces and other things on which a dependable abrasive cleaner is so commonly used.

An occasional special cleaning is necessary for a stove. A coal or wood range depends upon clear flues for a great part of its efficiency, and deposits of soot around the oven are something the cook easily learns to guard against. A rub, from time to time, with an oily rag will keep the top of the range in good shape (one feels constrained to sound the usual warning—use oil only when there is no fire—and burn the oily rags afterwards. Even thrown into a cupboard or tucked away in a

drawer, they are apt to cause fire by spontaneous combustion.

A gas stove should have its burners taken out and put into a tub containing a strong washing-soda solution. This will cut the grease completely. After scrubbing with a stiff brush, rinse in plain hot water, wipe quite dry and replace. Drip pans, doors and other removable parts which have become greasy, may be treated the same way.



Coal oil, or gasoline stoves, should be carefully cleaned according to the special instructions issued by their makers.

**F**LOORS sometimes require some special attention. If a waxed floor seems to be badly soiled, wipe it over with a clean cloth wrung out of clear, hot water—no soap or oily preparations. If this isn't sufficient, rub with turpentine. When it is quite dry, apply the fresh coat of wax—always allowing it to harden for a little while after it has been applied, before attempting to polish the floor.

A floor which has no wax on it can be kept in good order with a so-called "dustless mop,"—a yarn mop which is chemically treated and will, owing to its oily character, gather up dust with a minimum of effort. General dusting will be facilitated by the use of these "treated" mops and dusters; or the housekeeper may prefer a favourite preparation which she can apply to her duster as she needs it; (usually, the duster should first be

wrung out of clear water—an essential point if the directions of the polishing preparation call for it.

And when the dust has been raised and settled, and it is almost time to straighten the furniture and re-hang the curtains, the windows must be cleaned, that there may be nothing to prevent those prying spring sunbeams from showing up

our immaculate state to its fullest advantage. To wash the windows, water should be softened with a little household ammonia; or a paste, made of 1 part precipitated whiting to 2 parts ammonia, may be rubbed on, left to dry, then carefully wiped off and the glass polished; or there are handy cleaners to be had which are splendid for the purpose. Chamois leather is excellent for polishing; for the glass clears at its touch, as it will do at no amount of rubbing with an ordinary cloth, however fresh and clean.

Tricks in all trades? Yes, indeed; and in none, more than in the year-round business of "cleaning house."

