

Geneva's Realm

www.genevasrealm.com

Newsletter

Winter 2007

The Flour Sack Towel

Flour Sack Towels are truly legendary!

You may know somebody who still remembers the days when families would purchase their household flour in sacks weighing 50 or 100 pounds, place the entire sack into a large container from which flour would be scooped until the sack was empty. The sack would be laundered and bleached, skillfully cut, hemmed and then put to many household uses as these were often the only towels available in the home.

Flour sack towels were commonly used in homes as kitchen towels, cleaning and polishing cloths, diapers and as underclothing. Many were sewn together to make sheets and pillowcases in homes that could not afford regular bedding.

Since flour sack towels are super soft, completely lint-free, absorb like a paper towel and dry faster than most kitchen towels, they add unsurpassed sparkle to dishes, glassware and windows. They make superb dusting cloths and have many culinary uses. They are used for dehydrating, straining cloths for stocks and sauces, poaching, cheese making, pastry, proofing bread, microwave cooking and they keep salads fresh for hours.

They are still the best bargain for dishtowels and they get better with every use. All the nubs, imperfections and shadings are characteristics of this fine towel. Since these towels are pre-washed, pre-shrunk and resistant to unraveling, crafter's have found them to be wonderful for embroidery, applique, stamping and useful in many other craft projects. We are pleased to bring you the same truly old-fashioned, all cotton weave towel that Grandma knew was best!

Flour sack towels are available for single purchase or in a set of three. They also make a great Holiday gift!

Tote Bags

The goal in providing these bags is to make a wise post consumer decision. Not only does it save a tree or a barrel of oil - it makes your shopping trip a heck of a lot easier.

Worldwide, hundreds of billions of plastic bags are consumed each year. Less than 3% are recycled; the rest are clogging landfills, blowing down our streets and threatening wildlife. Because of their negative environmental impact, from manufacturing to disposal, many countries are banning or taxing plastic bag use (as much as 20 cents per bag!). As petroleum

based products, the cost of plastic bags will continue to rise, being passed on to consumers. As tax payers, we are also bearing the staggering

Just imagine if everyone took this one small step! Imagine the world without all of that waste - that would make the world a better place.

We have plain hemp tote bags, organic cotton bags and designer tote bags available.

Just A Bit

Geneva's Realm started out by taking used, unwanted (still in good shape) small furniture items and turned them into pieces of art and selling them at the local swap meet on the weekends. Then I got laid off from my full-time job (shock to the system I must say!). So, I started looking for ways to conserve and cut back on some expenses. I started just by simply paying attention to what I was throwing away or wasting. Well, what a revelation that was! Yikes! I first started to stop running the water when I brushed my teeth, started using rags instead of paper towels and being more conscious about turning off lights. Just those few things made a HUGE difference in our water bill, WalMart bill and electric bill. I find now that I am home more, our utilities are even lower than when I worked full-time. Go figure!

Then I started doing a bit more research, taking my own bags to the grocery store, and paying attention even more to what was being wasted or just used once. I cut out all my TOXIC cleaning supplies and found ways to use natural INEXPENSIVE items. (Check out the website for free organic cleaning recipes.) At first I thought it would take WAY too much time and effort to change my old habits, but I found it really was easy, simple AND it saved me a bunch of money (do I sound like a commercial?).

I will soon have products available on my website that I find have helped me immensely.

costs of clean up and disposal, estimated at 5.2 cents per bag.

You can find me at the Certified Farmer's Market Turtle Island in Joshua Tree on Saturdays from 8:00am to Noon. If you can't make it there I can be reached at the following:

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If you have any ideas, would like to team up, or are interested in networking - give me a call.

Make your impact on the Earth a positive one!

CHOICES

To clean and refresh your microwave, Put some lemon juice or vinegar in a cup of water and boil it in the microwave. Let the boiling water sit for a few minutes before you take it out. Wipe the interior with a clean wet rag then wipe dry.

DETERGENTS - When purchasing laundry soaps or dish soaps try to avoid the following additives:

Alkyphenol ethoxylates - damages ecosystems
Phosphates - hey over fertilize algae
Sodium hypochlorite - also known as chlorine bleach, can react to release poisonous gas and kill "good" bacteria by going down your drain (see details next newsletter)
Fragrances or perfumes - may exacerbate allergies and asthma

More details next newsletter on how these and other chemicals also effect your septic tanks and what leaches into the ground.

