

good business

# Green as a whistle

## Service cleans homes without the harsh chemicals

By Laura Anderson

When Stephanie Taylor first started cleaning commercial and residential properties, chemicals in the cleaning products would leave her feeling sick to her stomach.

"I would feel weird," says Taylor, owner of Quad Cities Cleaning Services, a commercial and residential cleaning service that uses eco-friendly and organic cleaners nearly 100 percent of the time.

She says when she got her start, she would clean with whatever the particular company had in its janitor's closet.

At the time, cleaning was her second job. She also worked full time at a health-food store in the Quad-Cities area. Using her store discount, she was able to get her hands on some eco-friendly and organic cleaners.

From then on, she says, she would either leave the cleaners at the places she was cleaning or carry them in a caddy.

"I wouldn't have those side effects," she says. That's when she decided to use the alternative cleaning products on a regular basis.

Now, she says, she really tries to push eco-friendly products in her cleaning, using the basic vinegar and water mixture to clean along with a number of eco-friendly and organic brands of cleaners.

In only a few instances does she need to use cleaners with harsh chemicals, she says, like on hard-to-clean glass shower doors. She's working toward using 100

percent eco-friendly or organic products. "We're almost there," she says.

Not only are the eco-friendly cleaners healthier for her as she's using them, they're healthier for the people she cleans for, she says. "People in their homes are very cautious about their animals, kids and babies," she says, adding that with the types of cleaners she uses, clients don't have to worry about a child picking up something off the ground that is covered in chemicals.

"There's less concern," she says.

In addition, Taylor says there tends to be a link

between a good, clean atmosphere and mental and emotional well-being.

Taylor says the majority of the time when people hire cleaning services for their homes it's because they want to enjoy their time off work. They want to spend time with their families without thinking about sweeping the floor or getting rid of all of the cat hair.

"That's where we come into play," she says.

"Everyone loves to walk in the door to wind down and just smell the cleanliness. It gives them a piece of mind," she says, envisioning a person coming home after a long day at work for whom the good smelling house means, "I don't have to lift a finger, I can just sit down."

She says a number of the cleaners she uses also are equipped with essential oils, long known for mental and emotional healing powers. She says customers can walk into a room and think, "Ah, lavender," or, "Ah, lemon oil."

"How many people breathe in and say, 'Mmm, bleach?' " she asks.

She says Quad Cities Cleaning Service comes in and gets the job done so you don't have to, and at the same time, "uses something safe for your environment (that's) very therapeutic smelling."

"Cleaning, to me, is therapeutic and spiritual, in a sense," she says. It's "starting anew, like a rebirth of a cycle."

"It's really nice to provide that for other people."

*Quad Cities Cleaning Service provides free estimates of the cost to clean a home or business. For more information, visit [quadcitiescleaning.com](http://quadcitiescleaning.com) or call (309) 786-7553.*



Quad Cities Cleaning Service owner Stephanie Taylor and manager Jennifer Taets. (Photo by Stephanie Makosky / Radish)