Bitter Homes and Gardens

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Stealing Flowers
Simple & Illegal
Old to New
Makeshift Jewelry
Fun With Condiments
Exercise In
Your Own
Home
Even without money, I still find friendship with my happy little kitten Blue Eyes. He keeps my lap warm when its cold and I love him so much in return. I also love to hear him tell me about his day and all of his adventures.

Susan Miller, Little Rock, AR

In order to save money on floor mops, brooms, and dusters, I’ve decided that it is much more cost efficient to simply use my cat. After tranquilizing him, I am able to push him across my floors with a stick without any struggle. I never have to replace him, except after 5 or more years when he has passed away, and even then I can get a month of use. Best thing is that he cleans himself regularly, so no washing is necessary!

Susan Miller, Arcata, CA

I just read the letter above this one, and I have to disagree with Ms. Miller. The disadvantage of using low-watt fluorescent bulbs is that the light they give off isn’t natural-looking, and that can give rooms a negative energy.

Rebecca Barry, Arcata, CA

In your issue from December there was an article titled “The Night Santa Went Naughty,” in which Santa teams up with Comet and tries to avoid having to deliver presents. Even if the story didn’t have anything to do with homes or gardens, I found it delightful and I look forward to reading more about Santa’s shenanigans next Christmas.

Ken Horton, Concord, NH

For years I’ve said that I would never pay high electricity bills, I recently decided to switch every light bulb in my house to those low-watt fluorescent bulbs that you recommended. I am very happy to say that the next month, my electricity bill dropped by 20%! I was surprised at how much of a difference a simple change like that made. Thank you very much!

Susie Muller, Little Rock, AR

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Ken Horton, Concord, NH
PREPARATION

1. In a large bowl, combine the ketchup, Dijon mustard, mayonnaise, ranch dressing, barbecue sauce, and cream cheese. Stir well to combine.

2. In a separate bowl, combine the cooked noodles and chopped turkey. Mix well.

3. Add the turkey mixture to the sauce and stir until well combined. Transfer the mixture to a 9x13 inch baking dish.

4. Bake in a preheated oven at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 25-30 minutes, or until bubbly.

Makes 6 servings

EACH SERVING: 522 cal, 11 g fat (3 g sat. fat), 870 mg chol, 2680 mg sodium, 30 g carbo, 3 g fiber. Daily Values: 14% vit A, 10% vit C, 4% calcium, 8% iron.

PICKLED PIZZA

INGREDIENTS

2 Jars of Pickle Relish
1 bottle of Dijon Mustard
½ cup of mayonnaise
4 cups of water
1 package of Ramen
2 cups of cheese
2 tsp of milk

PREPARATION

1. In a large pot, combine the pickle relish, mustard, mayonnaise, and water. Bring to a boil.

2. Add the ramen noodles and cook for 2-3 minutes, or until tender. Drain.

3. Add the cooked noodles to the pickle mixture and stir well.

4. Add the cheese and stir to combine. Taste and adjust seasoning as necessary.

5. Transfer the pizza to a cutting board and cut into desired sizes.

Makes 6 servings

EACH SERVING: 334 cal, 10 g fat (10 sat. fat), 111 mg chol, 1102 mg sodium, 20 g carbo, 2 g fiber. Daily Values: 11% vit A, 10% vit C, 2% calcium, 30% iron.

CHOOSE WISELY

WHAT KIND OF MUSTARD TO IT EA FACIN ULLAMET ACIPISIS DELIQUIS AMCORE VOLESTO DIAT, CONSENT VEL ET VELIQUI ELENT ADIONUM EUGUE TING EA AUGIAM VULPUTE DIP ERO DOLOBOR ADI-AMETUER EX ENIBH ET VEL UT LUTEM QUATUE CONSEQUAT LUM VULPUTEM ZZRILIT WIS EL ER AUGIAT LANDRERIT ULLUM ESEQUI TISL ILISIM NONULLAN EU FACINCI NCILLA AM, SENT AM EU FACIN ULLAOR INIM DIGNA FACIPIT ET ERO ENT NISIM ALISSE DELIQUAT. PERAT. NIM VOLOBORE FEUM VER IRILIS NULLAORE MAGNA AUT VELI-QUAT. ESTRUD IUS. AUS AT MOST WISECI ET VEX EJOGUIS.

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ideas | JAR UP YOUR LIFE |

2. SET THE TABLE
Set the table with jars! A jar can be a bowl, a glass, a serving dish, and can even be used for leftovers! It is a cheap way to get all the dishes you need and also gives your kitchen a fun theme!

3. SHINE SOME LIGHT
Jars can make great homes for candles. Tall or small!

4. NEED A PEN?
You can find one in the jar on the counter. Jars can be great organizers.

5. WORK OF ART
Need a centerpiece? No problem! A handful of jars arranged in a fun design, add some flowers and candles and you have a masterpiece!

6. HOME SWEET HOME
Use that old sauce jars to home the family pet!

7. SWEET TOOTH
Candy dishes are always fun! Put your favorite candy in a jar for those special cravings.

8. COOKIE JAR
Go back to the traditional cookie jar!

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RED AND YELLOW SOUP
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START TO FINISH: 15 minutes

INGREDIENTS
2 bottles of Ketchup
1 bottle of Dijon Mustard
½ cup of mayonnaise
4 cups of water
1 package of Ramen
dash of pepper taste
taste

PREPARATION
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EACH SERVING: 334 cal, 10 g fat (10 sat. fat), 111 mg chol, 1102 mg sodium, 20 g carbo, 2 g pro. Daily Values:
11% vit A, 10% vit C, 2% calcium, 30% iron.

RADIOACTIVE DIP
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START TO FINISH: 5 minutes

INGREDIENTS
1 cup of Ketchup
1 cup of Dijon Mustard
½ cup of mayonnaise
½ cup relish
veggies, crackers, or bread for dipping

PREPARATION
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FEELING FANCY?
MAKE YOUR OWN KETCHUP!

INGREDIENTS
home grown tomatoes
corn syrup
vinegar
salt
onion spice

PREP: Dapsumsan hentend dit wis et, si. Guo conditum lohore corros magnis
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Fun With Condiments

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9. STORING MEMORIES
Instead of those high priced frames use a jar to
hold your precious memories. The more jars, the
more memories!
10. ADD SOME COLOR

Flowers can always help bring color to the room and why add to that expense? Instead of going to the store, use that old jelly jar that had been taking up space in the recycle bin.

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See all the angles

Have a small family room? Not a problem! With the use of mirrors your small space can be transformed into a great family bonding experience!
MAKE YOUR OWN BIG SCREEN
A great way to magnify your experience without maximizing your expenses is to simply pull the binoculars!

REACH OUT
Are you batteries dead again? Feel like you don’t have the money to purchase batteries? No need to waste your money, grab a stick from your backyard.

TO KEEP OR NOT TO KEEP
In these tough economic times, people are constantly redrawing the line between what to keep for reuse and what to trash for space.

The Art of Organization
How to decide what to keep and where.
by MICHAEL GORMAN
photos MICHAEL GORMAN & ROSE RICHARDSON
family matters

Upgrade the Cheap Way
Don’t let society’s expenses tear your family apart.

NEW WAYS FOR FAMILY DAYS
Improve your entertainment with a few cheap tricks!
healthy you  
FITNESS

NO CARB DIET
Tree bark and other wild plants are hard for the human body to digest. These make the perfect snack when on a diet, and you can find them in the backyard.

EXERCISE ATTIRE
Yoga clothes are getting to be too pricy for your budget. Eliminate that cost by wearing clothes you may find by the side of the road. Try to find items that seem gently used. Pre-owned clothes are great for exercising because they are already broken in.

EASY-TO-AFFORD TREADMILLS
Now that you no longer have expensive exercise equipment, you’ve got to be more creative! Here’s how to use your imagination to own the treadmill of your dreams.
• Start by picking a spot in an open room of the house
• Begin to run in place
• If a family member walks by and asks you what you are doing, simply reply, “I’m clearly using my new treadmill!” This will help you to believe in your illusion

throughout the ages, there have been debates about the mantra to follow: “reduce, reuse, recycle” or “a cluttered home breeds a cluttered mind.” In today’s economic climate, we can all be sure of one thing, though: we all need to do what we can to stay afloat in spite of our losses. To some, that means they can’t throw anything out, saving even the lowest breadcrumb lest it be needed in absentia. To others, today is purging time: by getting rid of everything inessential to their survival, they can concentrate better on the most important things in life, from finding a job to organizing their coupons.

In the space pictured to the left, as you can no doubt see, the former CEO has abandoned his life of luxury for a more simplistic existence. Gone are most of his material possessions, leaving only two sets of clothes, a sleeping bag, and a book: “Go Put Your Strengths To Work” by Marcus Buckingham. After his wife of more than thirty years forced him out of their suburban home, he took a temporary job supervising a residence hall at a community college in rural Oklahoma.
PACK RAT SURVIVAL

Turning your home into a metaphorical dumpster does have its advantages: for one, you have everything you’ll really need to survive.

THIS SPACE

This particular space, owned by a famous housekeeping icon with a background of insider trading who asked to remain anonymous due to sheer embarrassment, is a prime example of how much people can collect when they put their minds to it.

HARNESSING YOUR INNER CLUTTER MONSTER

These quick steps can make it much easier for anyone to become a class-A pack rat.

- Anytime you are about to throw something out, ask yourself this one simple question: does one plus one equal two? If so, don’t throw it out.
- If you see your friends or neighbors throwing something out, offer to do it for them. Once they are gone, refer to the previous step.

FITNESS
EXERCISE EQUIPMENT
TREADMILL
EATING HEALTHY

Gym at Home

Now that you have no money for gym memberships, or even gym equipment, you can make use of household items.

PUMPING IRON-ING BOARD

15-20 reps with your ironing board is the perfect bicep exercise! Just lift with your legs, and not your back. Also, do not try to lift heavier things like the couch.
BUYING TIPS
When buying paperclips, don’t immediately go for the plain silver ones. The colored clips may be a bit more expensive, but it is well worth it when they can double as an accessory!

PAPERCLIP NECKLACE
Hook paperclips in your favorite colors together for a unique multicolored accessory. Change it up for each outfit, and use them for their intended purpose at the end of the day. Try making a long chain, and then when you need a clip at the office, you always have one. You can then just shorten your necklace if need be.

GET CREATIVE
You don’t have to stick to what we have told you to use! You can use almost anything that you can find around the house when making your own jewelry.
- It seems like everyone has an extra key ring or two on their keys. Ask around!
- Bring back the Gum wrapper folding or try other candy wrappers for a colorful twist.
- Don’t be afraid to try a new idea. It will most likely be a good one, and you will have all your friends asking for their own!
DIGGING FOR FUN  Churches, School yards, and neighborhood parks are all great places to find beautiful, unique plants, flowers, and lawn orna-
ments. Just bring your shovel and start digging away. Simply replant them in your own yard.

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Old to New
Ever thought there could be more to your junk?
This spring, bring your recyclables into your wardrobe as your own unique, one-of-a-kind
accessories.

DIGUT FOR FUN  Churches, School yards, and neighborhood parks are all great places to find beautiful, unique plants, flowers, and lawn orna-
ments. Just bring your shovel and start digging away. Simply replant them in your own yard.

POT CAN TABS
Want to do something unique with your recycling? Take the tabs off of your pop cans and turn them into a one of a kind
necklace. String them together using ribbon to match every outfit in your wardrobe. Can’t
afford all of that ribbon? Make just one with a neutral color to

Did you know?
When you get tired of your homemade accessories, recycle them! You will do
good for the environment, and sometimes you can
even get money for them!