

SPRING CLEANING

Once Angela Arthur became educated about the potential health risks posed by conventional household cleaners, she asked her housekeeper to use environmentally sensitive products. The answer was no. Her response? Founding California Green Clean (californiagreenclean.com), which dusts, sweeps and scrubs homes and businesses with products certified as 100 percent Earth-friendly by Green Seal. They're all nontoxic and biodegradable.

CGC, which serves the Sacramento metropolitan region and earlier this year expanded to the north shore area of Lake Tahoe, uses vacuums that capture 99.7 percent of particulate matter; its mop heads are made of super-efficient microfibers. Weekly or biweekly service costs \$70 (per visit) for the first five rooms and \$11 for each additional room. One-time cleanings are billed at an hourly rate. (In California, a typical housecleaning service charges by the house, not by the room, with rates starting around \$40.)

Arthur, who lives with her husband in Land Park, blogs on her company's website. "The blog's focus is on how to clean green, how to live green," she says. Among other things, she is likely to point out that most conventional cleaning products have not been tested for their short- and long-term impact on humans and the environment, and that homes' interiors are two to five times more polluted than outdoors.

Find other regional green-tinted companies (including cleaning services that use green products on request) at ecovian.com/sacramento. Do your own housecleaning? Choose from an array of eco-embracing products increasingly available on store shelves and through the Internet. Many are reviewed on thegreenguide.com.