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# Green This! Volume 1: Greening Your Cleaning



## Synopsis

Change the way you clean and keep your family's home wholesome and healthy with the help of expert and activist Deirdre Imus. We all grew up thinking chemical smells like bleach and ammonia signaled "clean." But as Deirdre Imus reveals, some of the chemicals we use to maintain our homes are doing us and our families much more harm than good. In *Greening Your Cleaning*, the first in her *Green This!* series, Deirdre shows how cleaning house the environmentally responsible way can be as effective and often cheaper than the more traditional, toxic, means. This volume includes:

- Simple, efficient cleaning methods for every room of the house
- Spotlights on everyday products (all purpose cleaner, glass/window cleaner, laundry detergent) and the toxic ingredients you should be wary of
- Summaries of the latest research on the toxic effects of ordinary chemicals
- Resource lists of widely available "green cleaning" products and retailers

Filled with tips and testimonials, *Greening Your Cleaning* will show you how to streamline your cleaning products and practices, and how easy it is to make "living green" your way of life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Packed with practical insights and solutions to protect our families. Deirdre Imus asks the provocative question, 'Is the way we clean really good for us?' Read on to find the startling answer."

-- Mehmet C. Oz, M.D., author of *You: An Owner's Manual*

Deirdre Imus is the founder and president of the Deirdre Imus Environmental Center for Pediatric Oncology(R), part of Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC) in New Jersey. She is also a cofounder and codirector of the Imus Cattle Ranch for Kids with Cancer, and the author of the bestselling book *The Imus Ranch: Cooking for Kids and Cowboys*.

I have been aware of Don Imus, (Dnl) and his show: *Imus in the Morning*, for some time. My first recollection of being aware of Deirdre Imus (Ddl) was on one of his recent shows. I happened to catch one of these shows and was impressed by her presence and contribution. Next, I selected his web site, and followed by selecting: *Deirdre's Corner*. Four items emerged. (1) A video clip of her latest appearance on the live *Health Hour* with Dr. Manny Alvarez. (2) Ddl's latest session on *Fox Business News (FBN): Blonde on Blonde*. (3) Ddl's latest blog on *Fox News*. This blog cited a major concern on organic pesticides. (4) Ddl's latest newsletter for the: *Ddl Environmental Health Center*. The first item alerted me to some key medical professionals. The third item alerted me to her concerns not only on organic pesticides (chlorpyrifos, CFP, my acronym), but also on plasticizers (bis-phenol A, BPA). It also got my attention as CFP was first produced by my old chemical company, and the associated comments were not particularly flattering. An inspection of her writings indicate that they all embrace the color green. As I have also written a book that embraces this color (*How Green Are the Gorons?*, iUniverse, 2011), I knew I had to find out more about this writer and her work. So I started in on her *Volume One*. And on the very first page she reports that "we are exposed to pesticides and carcinogens - - -." Since I have had a strong interest in pesticides and carcinogens I wanted to know more on what she had to say on this subject, so I looked for the Index to look up pesticides. No index. Ouch! Next I studied the section entitled: *Glossary of Chemicals* (pages 203 - 215). Pesticide would have been on page 211, but it was not listed. This was not surprising as pesticide is not a chemical, but a group of chemicals. An inspection of her *Glossary of Chemicals* might be helpful. (1) First moving backwards: perchloroethylene (page 211) or PERC. Among other statements she reports PERC can damage the liver, kidneys and central nervous system, and has been known to cause cancer in lab animals.. organic solvents (page 210), are nervous system depressants. This is another group of chemicals. It is curious why organic solvents were listed and pesticides were not. methylene chloride (page 209) is an organic chlorinated solvent, and a suspected human carcinogen. dioxin (page 207) is reported as the most dangerous man-made chemical ever tested, and has been linked to cancer and many other serious medical problems. Now all of these chemicals have been important to me, and many are included in my book

in the section on Rachel Carson. For example in the section on her disdain for the Law of Diminishing Returns, Carson "seemed to categorically reject all chlorinated chemicals. While talking about the chemical chlordane, she makes a blanket indictment, that, "like all chlorinated hydrocarbons its deposits buildup in the body in a cumulative fashion". But chlordane is not like all chlorinated hydrocarbons. It is one of the most complicated compounds ever made. This molecule contains an almost unheard of eight atoms of chlorine. In contrast, DDT contains five chlorine atoms, dioxin has four and the simplest chlorinated hydrocarbon (methyl chloride) only a single chlorine atom. It would seem to Carson that if a molecule with 8 chlorine atoms is very bad, than one with 5 chlorine atoms must also be very bad, and if a molecule with 5 chlorine atoms is very bad, than one with 4 chlorine atoms must also be very bad, and so on down to even a single atom."(2) Next looking forward one sees: phenol (page 211) is highly toxic, a known mutagen and suspected carcinogen. It can irritate or burn skin, eyes, nose, mouth, throat and lungs. Phenol can also interfere with the ability of the blood to carry oxygen and cause bronchitis to develop.' polychlorinated biphenyls (page 212, 213) or PCBs. Ddl reports that these are mixtures of 209 chemicals (again leading to the question of why pesticides were not included in this list). She noted that there are no natural sources of PCBs. They are no longer made in the USA. PCBs are chemically stable and remain in the environment for long periods of time. Once in the environment they accumulate in the fatty tissue of animals. PCBs can cause serious health problems in children.' trichloroethane (page 215) TCA, is much like PERC. All of the above inputs depict a very complex field. While there are areas that I agree with Ddl on, there are areas that I am not so sure about. In any event, Ddl's writings have caused me to at least rethink my position on many of these subjects. This is very comparable to my position on Rachel Carson. I first became aware of the details of her life and career with the purchase of Silent Spring (40th Anniversary Edition, Mariner Books, 2002), her defining book. This book was both widely praised and condemned. It was surely not ignored. It led to a vigorous and heated debate ultimately leading to the ban of DDT. While praising RC is not the role of this report, there is much about Rachel Carson with which I can salute. She was surely a lover of nature and could see that society was not doing right by nature. I would have little trouble saluting the aspects of her career that demonstrated insight, courage and tenacity. She was also something of a maverick, with no official scientific laboratory or governmental agency to support her views over her last 12 years. As a self proclaimed maverick, as noted at the start of my book, I would have great empathy on what such a pathway entails. I would also have little trouble supporting her original macro environmental views:\* as she watched her hometown of Springdale, Pennsylvania being destroyed;\* as she saw the near destruction of Chesapeake Bay by industrial

drainage;\* as she learned about ocean pollution in Japan, specifically on Mercury and Cadmium;\* as she found out that the pesticide industry did not do adequate testing and did not provide appropriate application instructions. However, when Rachel Carson switched from her macro views, as expressed above, to her micro views, we started to move into areas of potential disagreement. She surely was the founder of the modern micro and sub-micro environmental concerns through her 1962 blockbuster book *Silent Spring*. Now there is one more area that needs attention, and that is the area of dispersants. Now I know she has written on that subject, just as she has on pesticides, but again no index, and nothing in her *Glossary of Chemicals*. Among other findings, she has reported that BP has dumped more than 800,000 gallons of dispersants into the Gulf. And the EPA has ordered BP to stop using the toxic dispersant: Corexit. EPA admits it doesn't know very much about this chemical, but intends to work on that situation. The manufacturer, Nalco Chemical, also has little to say, but argues it is no more acutely toxic to marine organisms or hazardous to human health than alternative dispersants. The recipe for this dispersant is not public. However, DdI is highly concerned particularly for small children. Again, all of the above inputs depict a very complex field, and DdI's writings will once again caused me to at least rethink my position on these additional subjects.

I have always been somewhat skeptical of using "green" products for cleaning---and some I have actually used in the past have not been as good as the regular products available. However, Deirdre Imus has written a very useful, well-organized overall review of products already in the home that can be used for "green cleaning"Â Green This! Volume 1: Greening Your Cleaning (Green This!). I have discovered that white vinegar, lemon juice, baking soda and salt, in various combinations can do a wonderful job of cleaning in bathrooms and kitchens, for example. Because I became acquainted with her on her husband's talk show, I was willing to buy Deirdre's book and am pleased that I did so.

I checked this book out of the library b/c it looked interesting and am now going to purchase a copy for reference. Deirdre gives many recipes for cleaners in the book- I'm not sure why so many reviewers say there are none in there. I have already tried some and have had great results. I got rid of all the toxic cleaners in my home and feel a lot more knowledgeable about what to look out for after reading this book. I have told all my friends about it and think it will be especially helpful for those who have small children with health issues. There is no sense in using harmful chemicals in your home when there is another way to clean.

This is a great book. I, honestly, only bought it because I was in support of her husband since I didn't think that he should have been fired. However, I'm glad that I did buy it. I didn't realize that the cleaning products I have been using were so dangerous, especially to my 16 month old daughter. Mrs. Imus understands that not everyone has the money to spend on these "green" cleaning products and she instructs the regular person on how to do it. The only thing I did not like about the book is that there are no lists, such as a "do this, not that" kind of list. Everything is listed in paragraph form, so you often have to go back and forth throughout the book in order to find what you are looking for. I would have loved to have a summary chart on the products I should be looking for. I found myself taking notes while I was reading it so that I could have all of the information I wanted in a short format.

I purchased several books to get me started on green cleaning. This one explained why it is so important and what specifically to avoid. The information on chemicals, standards and ingredients was exactly what i was searching for.

We have used this book time and again for our "cleaner house " !

Lots of interesting ideas that are environmentally safe. Nice to keep around.

GREEN THIS has changed the way I look at cleaning. It is the most informative book on green cleaning that I have ever read! By the time I read about 20 pages I was getting rid of my toxic cleaners and switching to eco friendly cleaners. And since I have done that my house has never smelled better than it does now and WOW... NO more headaches from smelling those toxic cleaners that we are so used to using. I highly recommend this book to everyone. Well worth the money! And I will save alot of money overtime on cleaners as well. Thank you Deirdre Imus!! Cant wait for your next book to come out!!

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