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Home briefs

The incredible sticking gadgets

Go ahead. Stick your grater to the wall.

You can do it with Stixx kitchen tools, which have a suction-cup base to keep them in place. So you can grate your cheese even when there's no counter space, make a one-handed grab for the paper towels or confound the baby with a bowl he can't launch off his high-chair tray.



[enlarge](#) STIXX
A suction-cup base keeps Stixx kitchen tools in place.

The suction base works with the flip of a lever to hold the gadget firmly in place on a flat, nonporous surface. Items equipped with the base are a corkscrew, salad spinner, grater, baby dish set, cutting board, slicer, mixing-bowl set and paper-towel holder.

The products are sold at Linens 'n Things (www.lnt.com) and are expected to become available this year at other home and kitchen stores. Prices range from \$20 to \$60.

Take that, germs! (But very gently)

Clorox has a new sanitizing spray that's being billed as gentle enough to use around pets, children and food.

Clorox Anywhere Hard Surface spray will kill 99.9 percent of bacteria commonly found in homes when used as directed, but it can be sprayed and left on a nonporous surface — even a baby's pacifier — without rinsing or wiping, the manufacturer says.

The product contains sodium hypochlorite, the same compound used in household bleach but in a much lower concentration that's more akin to pool water. The product contains 0.0095 percent sodium hypochlorite, compared with 3 percent to 6 percent for household bleach. The lower concentration makes it less effective at killing germs than a disinfectant, and it does not kill viruses or other microorganisms.

Clorox Anywhere Hard Surface is available at grocery stores, drugstores and mass retailers. The suggested retail price is \$2.99 for a 22-ounce bottle.

Frame your favorite calendar month

Instead of tossing old calendars, why not give them a second life?

That great image from this month that you don't want to relinquish when March 1 comes knocking? Well, now you can look at it year-round by putting it inside a frame.

It's inexpensive, quick and virtually foolproof. The only supplies needed are an old calendar image, a frame (preferably with a mat) and scissors.

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Let your imagination rip with sewing guide

When you turned those old jeans into cutoffs, little did you know you were dabbling in deconstruction fashion.

Fashion designer and consultant Elissa Meyrich takes that art a bit further with "**Rip It! How to Deconstruct and Reconstruct the Clothes of Your Dreams**" (Fireside Books, \$15).

The guide teaches simple techniques for altering clothing to make a fashion statement. Projects include turning a sweatshirt into a cardigan and making a tote from a sweater.

While the book is about clothes, we think it offers inspiration for the home. First thing on the reconstruction list is that dowdy slipcover on the sofa.

Compiled from the Akron Beacon Journal, St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Seattle Times staff

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