



REalVIEW

a monthly realty news digest

Dear Readers,

REalVIEW is a monthly news digest bringing to our clients and well-wishers news updates on major developments in the realty industry. The periodical will keep readers updated on significant changes and trends affecting real estate development within the country as well as globally, thus helping them in taking informed and calculated investment decisions.

Responsibly yours,

V. Sunil Kumar
Managing Director
Asset Homes

5 Safe Methods of Disinfecting Your Home



The good news is you don't need to use harsh chemicals to keep your house clean and germ-free. And the best part about using natural products is that they tend to be cheaper than a bottle of store-bought household cleaner. Here are five safe methods you can use to disinfect your home that won't break the bank.

Vinegar

Anyone who has used vinegar as a cleaning solution is bound to give it rave reviews. This is because despite its stinky nature, vinegar is an all-natural disinfectant. It contains acetic acid, which gives it antimicrobial properties and makes it great at killing mold. Vinegar has endless uses in the household; it's ideal for cleaning glass and stainless steel without leaving streaks. It can also get that nasty mold out of your toilets and sinks, and it's safe for washing all of your fresh produce. Some tough jobs around the house call for straight vinegar, but for those everyday jobs, just mix one tablespoon of vinegar with 1 cup (29 milliliters) of water and keep it in a spray bottle.

Hydrogen Peroxide

You've surely used hydrogen peroxide to clean out a cut before applying a bandage, but did you know it's also great for household cleaning? It does wonders on stains in both carpets and clothes, and when used in conjunction with vinegar, it's an excellent scum buster on tubs and tile. And unlike vinegar, hydrogen peroxide doesn't have a noticeable smell nor does it need to be diluted with water. It's also handy for washing your produce and whitening your teeth.

Lemon Juice

If your house is plagued with alkaline stains like soap scum, crank out the lemon juice. The citric acid in lemons helps break down that annoying scum better than just about anything else. And you can also use lemons to shine up your copper pots and pans so they'll look like new. But more than that, these tart fruits also are able to sanitize and disinfect non-porous surfaces, and reduce bacteria on hard surfaces — and they smell way better than vinegar.

Tea Tree Oil

Tea tree oil is an all-natural essential oil that's extracted from the leaves of the Australian Melaleuca tree. Because tea tree oil is naturally antibacterial, anti-fungal and antiseptic, it's commonly used in cosmetics and skincare, but it's also a great household cleaner when mixed with water. It's so concentrated that all you need is a few drops to create an effective cleaner. Use it in everyday applications like cleaning countertops and tile. It's also good for disinfecting areas where pets have had accidents or kids have gotten sick.

Soap and Water

If you're not dealing with a heavy-duty germ situation and just generally want to get your house clean, then soap and water is the original eco-friendly cleaner. Soap provides a lather that's able to mix oil and water together in a way that attracts and suspends dirt so that it can be rinsed away. So a bucket full of hot, soapy water is always your best bet for cleaning floors, countertops and other household surfaces.

The world's first 3D-printed office building is in Dubai



Printed in 17 days and constructed in 48 hours, the first 3D-printed office building in the world is in Dubai, the global hub for the development of this technology.

Nestled within the iconic Emirates Towers, the Office of the Future is the world's first 3D-printed office, located in Dubai. It is now fully operational.

How to 3D-print an office

A 3D-printer measuring 6 metres in height, 36 metres in length and 12 metres in width was used. It took only 17 days to print and was installed on site in two days, significantly faster compared to traditional construction methods. The process required one person to monitor the printer's functioning, seven people to install the building components, as well as a team of ten electricians and specialists to take care of the mechanical and electrical engineering. The entire cost of the project was only 140,000 dollars: the technique cut both building and labour costs by 50 per cent compared to conventional buildings of similar size. These savings translate into enhanced productivity, higher economic returns and increased sustainability if invested conscientiously.

The 3D-printed office was constructed using a special mixture of cement and building materials designed and made in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and United States. It was given an arc shape for safety purposes and to ensure stability.

Innovative design and competitive cost

Quite appropriately the structure, which covers 250 square metres, will host the Dubai Future Foundation, a

museum showcasing innovative designs. It has been conceived to offer the possibility for joint work between employees, and enhance the quality of the time spent at work. The goal was to shift from traditional work environments and provide greater opportunities to stimulate innovation and communication between teams. The design also offers space for exhibitions and workshops as well as other events. Innovative features have been adopted to reduce energy consumption, such as window shades that offer protection from direct sunlight and keep the building cool.

Dubai's 3D printing strategy

The office is the result of a partnership between Dubai and WinSun Global (Yingchuang in the original Chinese), a high-tech enterprise engaged in the research and development of new construction materials and printing of 3D houses. Global architecture and engineering firms Gensler, Thornton Thomasetti and Syska Hennessy were also involved.

The initiative is part of the Dubai 3D Printing Strategy, which aims for 25 per cent of all buildings in the emirate to be 3D printed by 2030. This is a unique global initiative aimed at promoting the status of the UAE, and Dubai in particular, as a leading global centre of 3D printing. Although long tested in labs, 3D printing technology is rapidly coming of age and the project marks the beginning of an important transformation in the construction and design sector. It's the most advanced 3D printed structure ever built on this scale and put into actual use.

<https://www.lifegate.com/people/lifestyle/worlds-first-3d-printed-office-building-dubai>

Bricks can act as 'cameras' for characterizing past presence of radioactive materials



Researchers from North Carolina State University have developed a new technique for determining the historical location and distribution of radioactive materials, such as weapons grade plutonium. The technique may allow them to use common building materials, such as bricks, as a three-dimensional "camera," relying on residual gamma radiation signatures to take a snapshot of radioactive materials even after they've been removed from a location.

"This research builds on our previous work, which was an empirical demonstration that we could turn a brick into a gamma ray spectrometer -- characterizing the energy distribution of a radiation source," says Robert Hayes, an associate professor of nuclear engineering at NC State and first author of a paper on the work.

"Our new work effectively shows that we could take an array of bricks and turn them into a gamma ray camera, characterizing the location and distribution of a radiation source," Hayes says. "Although this time we did

not use bricks, instead relying on commercial dosimeters, since it's a proof of concept study. Also, the radiation source we imaged this time was 4.5 kilograms of weapons grade plutonium, whereas we previously used a commercial americium source for the spectrometry demonstration. In this most recent study, we were able to rather accurately predict not only the location of the weapons grade plutonium, but even the radius of the source, just with passive dosimeters.

"Even though we used commercial dosimeters here, our findings strongly suggest that we could do the same using building materials, such as brick," Hayes says. "That's because the silicates in brick -- such as quartz, feldspars, zircons, and so on -- are all individual dosimeters. It is a tedious process to remove those grains from the brick for measurements, but we have done it multiple times. For the goals of this new research, it wasn't necessary to use brick -- we've already shown we can do that. This was simply a question of determining how much information we could glean from this approach. And the answer is that we could learn a lot -- about the size and shape of the radiation source, as well as the nature of the radioactive material itself."

"This ability for three-dimensional imaging is a novel capability, meaning we can basically see into history in terms of what nuclear material was where or when," says Ryan O'Mara, a Ph.D. student at NC State and coauthor of the work.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/03/200326124105.htm>

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