

tip talk

organizing, cleaning, recycling & more



5 things to do with...ziptop bags

- 1 MAKE A CHANGING MAT** Tear open the side seams of a gallon-size bag and lay flat for an emergency diaper-changing area.
- 2 PACK ACCESSORIES** Organize by category (jewelry, scarves, hosiery) so they're easier to find in your suitcase.
- 3 KNEAD DOUGH** Use two quart-size bags as gloves to avoid getting your hands sticky. You can also use a bag to store extra dough.
- 4 CREATE A TEMPORARY FUNNEL** Improvise a funnel for anything from shampoo to children's beads and glitter.
- 5 CLEAN A SHOWERHEAD** Pour a little white vinegar in a bag, rubber-band it to showerhead and soak for a half-hour.

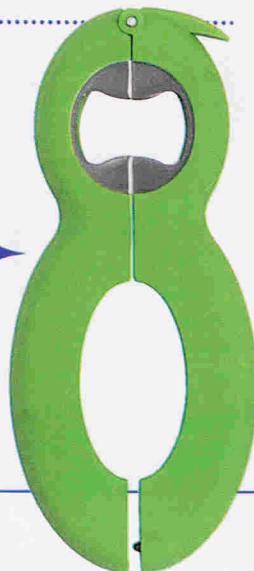


UH-OH! QUICK FIX

"I have a lot of dishes that I've inherited. How do I know if they're microwave-safe?" If the dishes are painted, have metal trim, are fragile or plastic, skip the microwave. For ceramic or glassware dishes, put 2 oz of water in a bowl, and microwave it on high for 30 seconds. If the dish is hot to the touch (be careful!), it's not microwave-safe. If it's cool, it's OK to use.

gotta have it!

Recently I bought a jar of strawberry jam that refused to open. My usual tricks all failed to budge the lid, so the jar sat in my pantry. Then the 6-Way Opener showed up, and popped open the jar in seconds flat. The green gadget easily opens jar lids, bottle tops, twisty caps, can tabs, snack bags and bottle safety seals. \$7.95; at Crate & Barrel.



THE BEST WAY TO recycle it



CDS AND DVDS

Mail discs to Back Thru The Future (cdrecyclingforfree.com), a woman-owned electronics recycling and data destruction company.