



While I'm trying to hold onto summer with everything I have, I know from past experience that it's no use. I will be drug into fall, and then winter, kicking and screaming, just as I have every year. The beautiful colors of fall hold only a little joy for me because I recognize them for what they really are. Harbingers of cold weather. Iced over cars, lots more time spent getting dressed to go out, putting boots on my dog (for crying out loud), leaving the house a half hour earlier to plan for time spent climbing through snow drifts and, "Driving to Survive, 101." Here in Avon, as we begin our swing into closed window season, try some fresh, natural scents to keep the stuffy house feeling of being confined at bay with some of these homemade air freshener ideas from www.earth911.com. Some might even calm your nerves and help you enjoy the beauty of fall and winter, without the angst.

Homemade Gel Air Fresheners

Grab a small jelly or baby food jar, some plain gelatin, essential oil, and water to make a gel air freshener in no time. Simply combine two envelopes of unflavored gelatin with a half a cup of hot water in a bowl. Stir until the gelatin is dissolved. Then add eight to 10 drops of your favorite essential oil and a few drops of the food coloring hue of your choice. Finish by stirring in a half cup of ice water and then pour into the jar (or jars, if you're making a whole batch). Leave the jar out on the counter to cool, and voila!

Vegan Container Air Fresheners

If you like the idea of having an air freshener that sits out on your countertop, but you're opposed to the use of gelatin, try this baking soda alternative. Combine a half cup of baking soda with eight to 10 drops of essential oil in an eight ounce Mason jar. Either punch holes in the Mason jar lid or line the top of the jar with decorative paper and screw the Mason ring on over it. Poke tiny holes in the paper with a needle and you have a vegan equivalent to the gel fresheners.

Now We're Cooking

For a quick but potent fix, boil sliced fruit and herbs on the stove for a couple of hours before guests arrive for a visit. Some favorite scent combinations are lemon and rosemary, grapefruit and lavender, and orange and vanilla. You can change the scents up with the season too. Imagine how amazing orange and clove would smell around Christmas.

If you have, or discover, a favorite DIY air freshener recipe, send it to me at ellen@cityofavon.com, tell me if you want your name printed with the recipe, and watch for it on this page!