

MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2003

# THE TEN BEST GREEN GOODS



Helping to save the world just got a whole lot easier.

**TAMASIN CAVE**, the editor of *Ergo* magazine, chooses practical, inspirational eco-friendly products



**Toyota Rav4 EV (electric vehicle)** ◀  
US\$30,000 (not available in UK yet)

Head and shoulders above other SUVs – and most other cars on the road – the RAV4 EV's maintenance-free electric motor reaches 78 miles per hour, with a range of 100 miles per charge. It went on sale in California at the beginning of 2002 as part of the state's commitment to cutting pollution. It's not available yet in the UK, but it should be (phone customer services and register your displeasure).  
Toyota UK (01737 367600; [www.evuk.co.uk](http://www.evuk.co.uk))

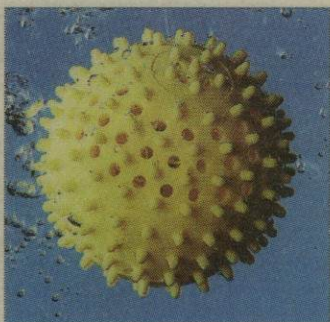
**Microfibre colour pack** ▶  
£15.50 (pack of four)

The million tiny micro fibres mean this cloth can absorb and hang on to dust and dirt like no other – makes old-fashioned chemical cleaners redundant (just use water) and it's a real boon for asthma sufferers, too. This cloth is suitable for all surfaces and can be machine-washed hundreds of times.  
From Natural Collection (0870 331 3333, [www.naturalcollection.co.uk](http://www.naturalcollection.co.uk))



**The Aqua Ball** ▼  
£14.95 + p&h (up to 120 washes)

Used in place of washing powder, these balls work by producing ionized oxygen, increasing the PH level of the water molecules. They won't fade colours or pollute the water supply. They cost 3p a wash, are hypoallergenic, and cute.  
From 21st-Century Health (0800 026 0220, [www.aquaball.com](http://www.aquaball.com))



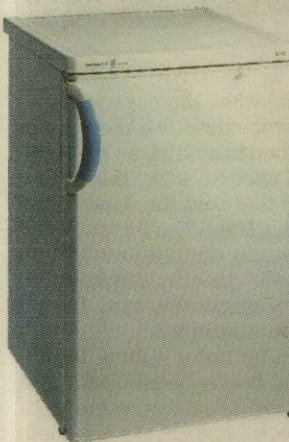
**Freitag bag** ▼  
From £59

Made in Switzerland from recycled truck tarpaulins, car seat belts and bicycle tires, Freitag bags hit the style pages last year. They're weatherproof, durable and come in a range of styles. Watch out Eddie Stobart.  
From London Graphics Centre (020-7759 4500, [www.freitag.ch](http://www.freitag.ch))



**Renewable energy** ▶  
No extra cost

Switching to renewable energy, or more specifically a renewable electricity supplier, is one of the clearest signals you can give that you care. And while your supply will at the moment be a mix of fossil fuel, nuclear and renewable, by opting for a supplier committed to investing in renewable energy (energy generated from sources that don't pollute and won't run out) you'll be building a cleaner industry.  
From Unit[e], [www.unit-energy.co.uk](http://www.unit-energy.co.uk), Ecotricity, [www.ecotricity.co.uk](http://www.ecotricity.co.uk), and Green Energy UK, [www.greenenergy.uk.com](http://www.greenenergy.uk.com)



**LG fridge-freezer** ◀  
£199.95

The 130-litre LG fridge-freezer GR-171 is the most energy-efficient – and only eco-labelled fridge-freezer – on the UK market. Fridges account for 6 per cent of the EU's energy consumption, and if everyone in the UK ran an A-rated, energy-efficient model, the country would be £1bn richer.  
From Currys (08701 545570, [www.currys.co.uk](http://www.currys.co.uk))



**Thames herring** ◀  
£3.99 for two pre-packed

Consumers who want to choose between vulnerable over-fished stocks and fish from well-managed waters should buy from eco-labelled fisheries. The Marine Stewardship Council has accredited six fisheries so far, including the Thames herring.  
From independent fishmongers and Sainsbury's stores



**Trannon high stool** ◀  
£330

In Britain, 90 per cent of our timber is imported, yet every year almost half our homegrown timber crop is pulped or burnt. Industry is only interested in the mature trees, the rest are felled or "thinned". Instead of letting young woodland ash go to waste, the furniture makers Trannon use these unseasoned thinnings. The timber is steam bent and seasoned to produce this high stool.  
From Trannon (01722 744 577, [www.trannon.com](http://www.trannon.com))

**Natural insulation** ▼  
From £7-£10 per square metre

Buildings account for half of all energy used, so cutting down on lost heat makes a big difference to our carbon dioxide emissions. Back in the day we used synthetic materials that were difficult to dispose of, but natural insulation is now available, made from wool, flax and recycled paper.  
From Construction Resources (020-7450 2211, [www.constructionresources.com](http://www.constructionresources.com))



**The Good Shopping Guide** ▼  
£10



The definitive guide to corporate behaviour – including environmental performance, human rights and animal welfare. Published by the people behind the *Ethical Consumer* magazine, it covers what's behind the brands, and reveals, ultimately, where your money goes.  
From all good bookshops

## IN TOMORROW'S REVIEW

### THE TEN BEST Rugs ▶

AS CHOSEN BY RACHEL LOOS, EDITOR OF 'ELLE DECORATION'

The Ten Best is edited by Caroline Wingfield. E-mail: [c.wingfield@independent.co.uk](mailto:c.wingfield@independent.co.uk)  
Register at [www.ergo-living.com](http://www.ergo-living.com) to receive a free copy of the magazine.