

## COOKING TIPS!!

**SHORTENING TRICK:** Before measuring vegetable shortening, rinse your measuring cup with water. Pack shortening into the wet cup - it will slide out in one piece without sticking.

**BETTER GINGER:** To get the best minced fresh ginger fast, pound a peeled piece with the flat side of a mallet or a heavy can covered in foil until the pulp separates from the fibrous threads. Discard threads; mince pulp.

**REFRIGERATE IT RIGHT:** Refrigerate highly perishable foods, such as dairy and meat, in the main part of your refrigerator where it's coldest, saving the door, which doesn't stay as cold, for condiments.

**CHILL YOUR CHEESE:** to avoid a gooey mess when crumbling soft cheese like blue or goat cheese, first freeze cheese until firm, about 10 minutes.

**FRESHER MARSHMALLOWS:** To prevent leftover marshmallows from drying out, place them in a plastic bag and freeze, instead of storing at room temperature.

**NEATER DEVEILED EGGS:** To neatly slice hard-boiled eggs, first dip your knife in hot water and wipe dry.

**BETTER-TASTING COFFEE:** To clean an electric coffee grinder, grind a handful of uncooked rice until the grinder no longer has any color.

## SMART WAYS TO USE CORNSTARCH!!

**FRESHEN YOUR CARPET:** Sprinkle cornstarch over your carpet 20 minutes before vacuuming - it's a natural carpet deodorizer.

**FUN FACE PAINT:** Make face paint by combining two parts cornstarch with one part vegetable shortening. Divide into bowls; tint as desired with food coloring.

**SAVE MONEY ON LAUNDRY:** For homemade spray starch, fill a spray bottle with 1 cup cold water and ½ tsp cornstarch. Shake well before using.

**COMFY HOUSEWORK:** Sprinkle cornstarch inside rubber gloves to make them easier to slip into.

**PAIN-FREE FEET:** Sprinkle a little cornstarch onto the bottoms of your feet before putting on socks to absorb moisture and reduce the friction that causes blisters.

**SAVE YOUR LEATHER:** To remove an oil stain from a leather jacket, shoes or furniture, sprinkle the area with cornstarch; let stand overnight to absorb the grease. Brush off with a clean cloth.

**MAKE YOUR CAR SPARKLE:** Before buffing your car, sprinkle cornstarch onto your towel to help it remove excess polish and make it shine.

## HOME TIPS!!

**GARNISH WALLPAPER:** Tone it down by applying a coat of tinted glaze for a pretty new look.

**MINI SCRUBBER:** Use a child-size toothbrush to clean the tiny spaces between the buttons on small appliance like blenders and hand mixers.

**WINDOW CLEANER:** Dump a handful of marbles into the bottle so you can get to every last drop.

Get more helpful hints and tips on a weekly basis from **RICK'S FOOD CENTER**. Your locally owned hometown grocery store in the "VALLEY OF BEAUTY".