



Bay Area Green Business Program

Environmental Values At Work



Store owner, Annie Jenkins stands behind a counter she obtained from Freecycle



Vegetable glycerin soaps are available to purchase or make yourself



Soy based stain was used to color the concrete floor

Opal'z

719 Colorado Avenue, Palo Alto

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opalzoap.com

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The fragrance of soaps and lotions wafts out the door of Opal'z as you walk up to the entrance of the store. The quaint retail and soap making store is tucked in a small building in Midtown Palo Alto, where Annie Jenkins has recently set up shop. And while it's not obvious looking around that you are in an environmentally friendly store, Jenkins has made great efforts to make it "green."

"I grew up with environmentally conscious parents," says Jenkins. "We were the forward thinking family that was loading up the station wagon each week with recyclables and composting our food scraps!" So when it came time to open her store, it was second nature to think about the environment. She pulled up the old carpet and colored the floor with soy based stain, installed energy efficient lighting, and found two counters, most of the shelving for displaying products, and 22 chairs for her teaching studio on "Freecycle," the web-based classified ads that matches people with free items. She also sells mineral-based make-ups and vegetable glycerin soaps, takes her foam packing peanuts to a mailing center for reuse, and ensures the recycling bins near her shop are used properly.

"With recycling and energy efficiency being so easy, everyone should make the effort to be green. My philosophy is to do your best to use less," says Jenkins.

For more information on Opal'z green efforts, contact Annie Jenkins.