CARPETS WITH A CONSCIENCE

Many children throughout South Asia can be found in textile mills instead of schools where they belong. The RugMark Foundation certifies that manufacturers bearing this tag produce only child-labor-free rugs. To find participating companies, visit rugmark.org.

sound of music

A cross-pollination of style and sound, this universal iPod dock is a gift every tween will love. Sync it to the computer and let tunes take flight with speaker "wings" that flip down. Ladybug speaker dock, Vestalife, $110, target.com.

prefab pad

Add on to your home with a wood frame seasonal tent cabin—the perfect place for houseguests or teens who want their own space. It comes in four styles with polyester-vinyl walls. Sweetwater Bungalows, $2,700 to $7,800, sweetwaterbungalows.com.

get in the groove

Now you can let your fingers do the scrubbing without worrying about chipping your nail polish. Curved side grooves are designed to protect a manicure, and each color-coded sponge is suited for a specific task, whether it's cleaning china and crystal, countertops, or nonstick pots and pans. Ultra NailSaver Scrub Sponges, Scotch-Brite, $2.30, grocery stores.

eco tip

IT'S EASY BEING GREEN

This battery-powered lawn mower earns high marks for performance—it can clip ¼ of an acre on one charge—and for being the first of its kind to earn the EPA's Energy-Star rating for zero emissions. (The EPA says a gas-powered lawn mower emits as much air pollution in an hour as a car driven 100 miles.) This lean machine costs less than $10 a year to operate. 24-Volt Cordless Mulching Mower, Black & Decker, $400, blackanddecker.com.