

MAKING A HOUSE A HOME

Clean and Organized

*We all know that a well managed home helps create a healthy home environment. Cleaning can be easier if you follow a cleaning plan and use effective cleaning techniques. Assigning household chores to family members helps get the work done faster and teaches responsibility. It is sometimes hard to have a clean and organized home. The trouble is trying to "keep up with it all". It is a challenge, and the biggest frustration is **it's never finished**. Just when you think you've made it to the end it's time to start over.*

The following information will make it easier to make a house your HOME!



ORGANIZATIONAL TIPS

- < Let the family help - then there will be more time for Family Fun!
- < Don't procrastinate . . . get started.
- < Make a convenient place for everything.
- < Clean one room at a time.
- < Learn to throw it or give it away.
- < Keep **cleaning supplies** in a bucket or carry all (eliminates running back and forth).
- < Do hardest chore first.
- < Clean from top to bottom.
- < Do each room in **same order** - windows, dusting, floors.
- < Work one area at a time.
- < Create convenient areas to store kitchen equipment ie. pie plates, cake pans, etc.
- < Play upbeat **music** while you clean.
- < Don't be distracted by the phone. Clean while talking - use the cordless.
- < Use paper plates more often.
- < Serve dinner buffet style to eliminate cleaning serving dishes.
- < Bake while you do dishes - dovetail tasks - iron while doing laundry.
- < Clean as you go - wipe out sinks with dirty towels; squeegee shower stalls after each use.
- < Use odd moments to do odd jobs.
- < Utilize a junk drawer for miscellaneous items.
- < Put things in order before going to bed. Less clutter gives you more time, money and energy.

CLEANING TIPS

- < **Bathroom, Toilet:** Use a false teeth bubbling tablet to eliminate ring.
- < **Bathroom, Tiles:** Shine with lemon oil. Will also help prevent mold and mildew.
- < **Bathroom, Shower:** Fill plastic bag with vinegar and place over shower head to remove hard water buildup.
- < **Bathroom, Faucets:** Use alcohol to shine.
- < **Bathroom, Showers:** To remove hard water spots and scum, use undiluted, heated, white vinegar. Put in a spray bottle, apply and soak 15 minutes. Use a nylon-covered sponge, apply dry borax and scrub. For stubborn problems use a dry soap-filled steel wool pad on a dry shower (don't use water).
- < **Bathroom, Tub Decals:** Lay aluminum foil over decal and heat well with a blow-dryer. Scrape with an old credit card or thin, dull object. Continue to heat and pull until removed. Clean residue by using nail polish remover (keep bathroom well-ventilated).
- < **Bathroom, Walls:** To keep walls clean and shiny, wipe down with rag or towel right after a steamy bath (moist walls are easier to clean).



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- < **Carpet/Fabric:** *To remove children's clay* - Scrape off what you can with the dull edge of a knife. Spray with WD-40™ lubricant and let stand 10 to 15 minutes; scrape again. Re-spray as required, wiping up the stain with rag. Once you have removed the residue of the product, apply rubbing alcohol to the stain and blot, blot, blot (reapply as needed).
- < **Ceilings:** Most don't need washing - use a dry sponge to remove dirt and cobwebs. If any specks remain, cover with white shoe polish.
- < **Cobwebs:** Cover a yardstick with a tube sock. To clean, knock them down with stick.
*Use this method to clean under stoves and refrigerators.
- < **Crayon, Removal :**
Fabric - Spray both sides of the fabric with WD-40™. Let sit 15 minutes, then work-in undiluted dishwashing liquid, flush under the hottest water allowable for the fabric and launder as usual.
Hard surfaces - Spray with WD-40™ lubricant and wipe off. Wash with 1 quart warm water and 1 teaspoon dishwashing liquid.
Walls - Use toothpaste to clean crayons on wall.
- < **Curtains:** Put in dryer on air fluff to dust.
- < **Dishwasher:** If not dishwasher isn't full, add infrequently used dishes to keep them clean for the next special occasion.
- < **Dishwasher, Detergent:** Use the most inexpensive dishwashing detergent; add 2 tablespoons vinegar to water. Will help cut grease and leave dishes sparkling clean.
- < **Ink, Plastic Toys, Dolls:** Try applying a cotton ball saturated with rubbing alcohol to plastic surface. Let sit for 15 minutes, then rub. May also try rubbing with a little cuticle remover on a soft cloth; wait 10 minutes, then rub gently with the cloth.
- < **Iron:** If it has a *sticky* bottom, lightly run an old candle stub over bottom. If it is *plugged*, fill it with equal parts vinegar and water. Let steam 5 minutes, disconnect and let set for 1 hour. Then empty and rinse area with clear water.



- < **Linen, Stains:** Spray clean, pressed, table linens with a fabric protector a few days before using them. The inevitable spills will be less likely to stain.
- < **Odors:** Place charcoal in net bag in basement or in shoe closet to absorb odors.
- < **Pans, Dirty:** Soak rags in 50% ammonia-water solution. Cover them with rags and then place in plastic bag for 1-2 hours.
- < **Pots or Pans, Burnt:** Sprinkle pots or pans liberally with baking soda. Add just enough water to moisten; let stand for several hours. Clean with soapy water.
- < **Refrigerator:** Polish with car wax to avoid dust and dirt build-up.
- < **Rust:** To remove from counter tops and similar surfaces, make a paste of cream of tartar and lemon juice. Apply to rusty spot and allow to sit 15- 30 minutes. Scrub with a sponge or plastic-covered scrubbing sponge, rinse well and dry.
- < **Shoe, Heel:** Use an ordinary pencil eraser to get marks off vinyl floor.
- < **Silver, Tarnished:** Use enamel pan; fill with enough water to cover silver. Add 1 tablespoon salt and 1 tablespoon baking soda for each quart of water; bring to a boil. Place a piece of aluminum foil in the pan and add silver (silver must touch foil or another piece of silver). Let stand until silver becomes bright; remove with tongs. Wash, rinse, and polish dry.
- < **Stain, Prevention:** Use spray-on fabric protector on furnishings before stains happen.
- < **Stuffed Animals, Cleaning:** Dust heavily with baking soda or cornstarch; work in with fingers. Cover them in towels or place in a plastic bag; leave overnight. The next day, use a clean brush to brush them thoroughly after removing from the bag. *Do this outdoors to save cleanup work.*
- < **Wax, Candle:** Place ice in a bag and rub it over the wax to freeze it. Chip off all you can, then lay a plain (without writing) brown paper bag or blotting paper over the wax. Heat an iron to medium-hot and press over the bag, changing the spot on the bag as it absorbs the wax.
*Do not let the iron touch the carpet.
- < **Windows and Mirrors:** Use windshield wiper fluid for washing .



HOMEMADE CLEANING SOLUTIONS

Homemade cleaning can be approached from the standpoint of using time or money by creating products or buying commercial ones. Homemade products are less expensive but do require time to prepare. The more costly commercial products usually smell better, have better packaging, and are convenient to purchase. If you choose to use commercially prepared products, make sure to read labels carefully to avoid damage to surfaces. With homemade formulas, the entire contents are known!

WINDOWS-MIRRORS

Everyday Window Cleaner

2 tablespoons vinegar
1 quart warm water

Mix ingredients. Pour into a container and label.
Spray or sponge cleaner on surface; wipe off with non-colored crumpled newspapers or paper towels.

All-Weather Window Cleaner

1 teaspoon liquid dish soap
3 tablespoons rubbing alcohol
2 quarts water

Mix ingredients. Pour into a container and label.
Spray cleaner on surface and wipe off with a soft cloth or paper towel.

Heavy-Duty Window Cleaner

½ cup household ammonia
2 quarts warm water
1 teaspoon dishwasher detergent

Mix all ingredients. Pour into container and label.
Spray or sponge cleaner on surface; wipe off.

No-Wipe Window Cleaner (outside windows)

2-3 tablespoons laundry or dishwasher detergent
1 tablespoon dishwasher wetting agent (ie. Jet Dry)
1 gallon warm water (approximately)

Brush or sponge on window; immediately hose off.
Water will sheet off - no drying necessary.
**Caution: Be sure all windows are closed.*

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS

General Household Cleaner

2 tablespoons ammonia
2 tablespoons liquid dish soap
1 quart water

Mix ingredients. Pour into a container and label.
Spray or sponge cleaner on surface and wipe off with a soft cloth or paper towel.

Disinfectant Cleaner

¼ cup chlorine bleach
½ cup powder detergent
1 quart warm water

Mix ingredients in a small bucket. Sponge cleaner on surface and wipe off with cloth or paper towel.

Dishwashing Solution

Use inexpensive dish soap and very warm water.
Add a little vinegar to cut grease.

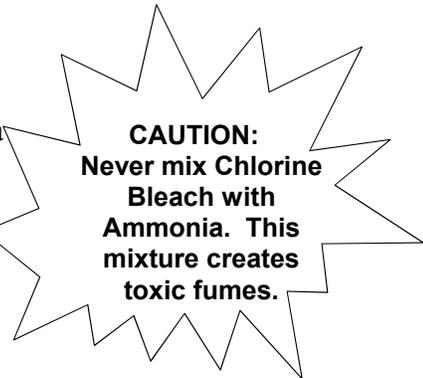
Dish Sanitizing Rinse

Use 2 teaspoons chlorine bleach to 1 quart hot water.
Allow dishes to soak a few minutes; rinse and let dry.

Drain Pipe Cleaner

½ pound washing soda
2 cups boiling water

Combine ingredients, flush pipe and then rinse.



CAUTION:
Never mix Chlorine Bleach with Ammonia. This mixture creates toxic fumes.

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS

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Mildew Prevention

1 cup household bleach
1 gallon water

Combine ingredients; scrub cement floor, tiled walls or floors. Rinse with clear water; wipe dry. Keep windows open until walls and floors are thoroughly dry.

“End-Your-Own” Dust Cloths

Use ONE of the following:

- 1) Spread a few drops of furniture polishing oil or wax into container; add lint-free cloth. Cover tightly and leave overnight.

**Caution: Do not use on waxed surfaces because it may soften the finish.*

- 2) Mix 1 tablespoon mineral spirits or turpentine with 1 quart hot water. Dip squares of clean cloth in solution. Wring cloths, dry and store for use.
- 3) Combine 1 pint very hot water and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup lemon oil. Dip soft, lint-free cloths into solution. Air dry dust cloths. Store in a tightly covered glass or tin container.

- 4) 1 tablespoon mild soap powder
1 quart warm water
1 tablespoon household ammonia
2 tablespoons boiled linseed oil
Mix all ingredients; dip cloths in solution. After a few minutes, squeeze out, dry and store.

**Caution: Keep cloths clean; wash them often. Treat again as above.*



CAUTION:
Keep cleaning
supplies out of the
reach of children.

Pet Urine

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup white vinegar
1 quart warm water

Mix ingredients in a small bucket. Sponge area and let stand a few minutes. Blot dry.

Oven Cleaner

Pour $\frac{1}{2}$ cup ammonia into a saucer and place in oven overnight. Fumes penetrate and soften grease. In the morning wipe off grease with a cloth or paper towel.

Porcelain Enamel Cleaner

Use lemon juice to remove rust stains. For more stubborn stains, try a weak solution of oxalic acid (1 teaspoon per cup hot water). Rinse immediately with ammonia solution; rinse well with water.

No-Wax Linoleum

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup white vinegar
2 quarts warm water

Mix ingredients in a small bucket. Use mop to scrub floor. Dries to a sparkling shine.



FURNITURE, PAINTED SURFACES, MISCELLANEOUS

Furniture Polish

Denatured alcohol solvent
Strained *fresh* lemon juice
Olive oil or boiled linseed oil
Gum turpentine

Mix equal parts of above ingredients; shake before using. Apply with a clean, absorbent, lintless cloth. Rub furniture; polish with a dry woolen cloth. This polish keeps indefinitely.

Furniture Cleaner

1 tablespoon liquid dishwashing detergent
1 quart water

Agitate the mixture to create thick suds. Use suds for cleaning. Wipe off with clean, damp cloth; wipe dry. (*Work on small area at a time*)

Furniture Beauty Treatment



This is used to clean and restore finished furniture (not paint or shellac). It will disguise scratches, remove dullness and restore oils. It is highly recommended for cleaning kitchen cupboards, wall paneling and all wood furniture.

3 tablespoons boiled linseed oil
1 tablespoon turpentine
1 quart hot water

Combine and place in top of old double boiler. Place over hot water until the moisture is as warm as a gloved hand can stand. For best results, keep the solution hot while using. Dip a soft, clean cloth into the solution. Lift out and squeeze until cloth does not drip. Go over an area no larger than about 1 by 2 feet, redipping into hot solution as needed until area is clean. Follow immediately with clean, dry absorbent cloth until all oil is removed. Continue process until cabinets are clean.
Caution: Boiled linseed oil allowed to remain on the wood will become tacky.

Everyday Cleaner (Painted Surfaces Only)



Mix liquid detergent and enough warm water to make light suds. Dust painted surfaces thoroughly before washing. Wash with a soft cloth dipped in suds and wrung out. Rinse well; dry with soft cloth.
Caution: Wash only small area at a time.

Heavy-Duty Cleaner (Painted Surfaces Only)

1 gallon hot water
1 cup ammonia
½ cup vinegar
¼ cup washing soda

Combine all ingredients; wash small area at a time (use rubber gloves). Wipe each washed area with a second cloth that has been dipped in warm water and wrung out.

Tile Cleaner

½ cup water softener
2 tablespoons mild abrasive (rottenstone)
1 cup hot water

Combine all ingredients. Apply to tiles with sponge or cloth. Use a stiff brush to clean grout and remove soap scum.

Laundry Pre-Wash

⅓ cup ammonia
⅓ cup liquid dish soap
1 ⅓ cups water

Mix together and put into a spray bottle; label. Spray directly on stained area before laundering.

Wallpaper De-Greaser

Apply a paste of cornstarch and water to grease spots on wallpaper; allow to dry. Brush spot; wallpaper is clean.

METAL CLEANERS

Aluminum

- ~ Combine 1 tablespoon vinegar and 1 quart water. Add to discolored aluminum pans; boil for 10 minutes until clean.
- ~ Combine 2 teaspoons cream of tartar and 1 quart of water. Add to discolored aluminum pans; boil for 10 minutes until clean.
- ~ Remove lime scale, by combining equal parts of vinegar and water and adding to pan. Bring to boil to loosen sediment. (If using on tea kettle, add glass marbles).
- ~ Scour badly abused aluminum pans with soap jelly or very fine steel wool.



Iron and Tin

- ~ Boil iron and tin utensils in hot soda water for a few minutes to clean. This process removes oil from utensil pores necessitating reseasoning.
- ~ Remove rust from iron with fine steel wool or scouring powder.
- ~ Before storing iron pots or pans, coat with a fine layer of oil; wrap in paper. Store in a dry place.

Non-Stick Cookware

2 tablespoons baking soda
½ cup vinegar
1 cup water

Combine and put in pan; boil for 15 minutes. Reseason the pan before using.

Brass Cleaner

- ~ Tarnish spots can be rubbed with hot vinegar and salt or with a lemon rind dipped in salt.
- ~ Antique finished brass can be polished with boiled linseed oil or lemon oil.

Pewter

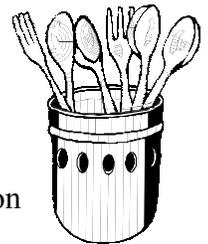
- ~ Use silver polish to remove tarnish.
- ~ Use paste of rottenstone and denatured alcohol to brighten finish.
- ~ Use paste of rottenstone and boiled linseed oil to dull finish.

Chromium

- ~ Mild suds usually clean well. Rinse well; dry with soft cloth.
- ~ Use rubbing alcohol to give a shiny surface. Dry thoroughly to shine.

Silver Utensils

Fill enamel pan with enough water to cover silverware. Bring to a boil; add 1 tablespoon salt and 1 tablespoon baking soda for each quart of water. Place a piece of aluminum foil in pan and add silver. (Silverware must touch foil or another piece of silver.) Let stand until silver becomes bright. Remove with tongs. Wash, rinse, and polish dry.



Copper Cleaner

- ~ To remove old laquer, place item in two gallons of boiling water to which 1 cup of washing soda has been added. The laquer will peel off.
- ~ Tarnished copper can also be cleaned with salt dissolve in hot vinegar.

*Sources: *Housecleaning on a Shoestring*,
USU Extension Bulletin E1183
EFNEP Program Bulletin