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HOW TO CLEAN GUIDE



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How to clean...

ACRYLIC

Decorative Objects

Routine clean

Dust regularly with a clean soft cloth or the brush attachment of a vacuum.

Spring clean

Use a cleaner formulated for acrylic. Or, wash in warm, clean water and dry immediately using a clean, soft cloth. Avoid scratching acrylic surfaces.

Bathtubs, Spas, Whirlpools

Routine clean

Follow manufacturer's care instructions.

Spring clean

Be careful as surfaces of spas and whirlpools can be sensitive to some household cleaners.

CERAMIC

Ceramic Glass

Routine clean

Using a nonabrasive sponge, paper towel, or clean cloth, apply a cleaner formulated for ceramic glass or a paste of baking soda and water. Rinse and dry thoroughly.

Spring clean

Do not use abrasive cleansers.

Do not use cleaners containing ammonia or bleach as they may discolour the surface. Use only clean cloths/sponges. Soiled cloths may leave a film and cause discolouration.

Tiles, Bathtubs, Countertops, Floors, Showers, Walls

Routine clean

Use a nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner (diluted or full strength); tub/tile/sink cleaner; or liquid cleanser. Rinse thoroughly with clean water and buff tiles with a dry cloth to prevent water spots. The easiest way to keep tiled shower walls clean is to wipe them down with a towel after each use. This will keep soap scum and hard water deposits from accumulating.

Spring clean

Avoid using powdered abrasive cleansers that could scratch the surface. Use a soft bristle brush to clean grout.

A solution of liquid household bleach (3/4 cup of bleach to 1 gallon water), or a mildew stain remover applied carefully with a brush helps clean stained or mildewed grout. Rinse thoroughly.

CORK

Flooring and Wall Coverings

Routine clean

Wipe up spills with a damp sponge or cloth as soon as they occur.

Use a floor wax regularly to protect the surface and a sealer to add a protective coating.

Follow label directions.

Spring clean

Cork is porous and absorptive; a sealer or protective coating should be applied for resistance to spills and wear. Avoid using water.

FIBREGLASS

Bathtubs, Showers, Stalls, Sinks

Routine clean

Use a tub/tile/sink cleaner; nonabrasive, all purpose cleaner or baking soda on the surface. Rub the surface gently, rinse or wipe clean.

Spring clean

Follow manufacturer's care instructions.

Avoid using abrasive cleansers and pads that could scratch, discolour or dull a fibreglass fixture. An acid base bathroom cleaner may be useful to help remove hard water deposits and rust scale.

GLASS

Doors, Mirrors, Table, Protectors, Table Tops, Windows

Routine clean

Use a glass or glass and multi-surface cleaner. Or combine 1/2 cup of ammonia in a gallon of water. Wet a sponge or cloth with the ammonia solution. Rinse with a clean, damp cloth and dry with a clean cloth, paper towels or a squeegee.

Spring clean

Keep cleaning products away from the frame of a picture or mirror by spraying product on a clean cloth then cleaning the glass or mirror. Or, hold cardboard or a cloth against the frame while spraying cleaner.

Shower Doors, Enclosures

Routine clean

Use a nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner, glass and multi-surface cleaner or a tub/tile/sink cleaner. Keep shower doors and enclosures open so that air can circulate to reduce mildew growth.

Spring clean

Use a nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner, glass and multi-surface cleaner or a tub/tile/sink cleaner.

LEATHER

Furniture

Routine clean

Use a foam, paste soap or cleaner designed for cleaning and conditioning leather.

Spring clean

Follow furniture manufacturer's care instructions.

MARBLE

Marble, Counters, Floors, Tabletops, Walls

Routine clean

Wipe up spills and spots immediately. Use a product formulated for cleaning marble.

Spring clean

Avoid using acid type cleaners or spilling acids on marble. Staining can result.

METALS

ALUMINIUM

Appliances, Accessories

Routine clean

Clean with a nonabrasive all-purpose cleaner, using a sponge or cloth. Rinse with a sponge or cloth wrung from clean water; dry with a clean, soft cloth.

Spring clean

Heavily stained surfaces may require multiple cleanings or soaking in a solution of nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner and warm water.

Outdoor Furniture

Routine clean

Clean with a nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner, using a sponge or cloth. Rinse with a sponge or cloth wrung from clean water; dry with a clean, soft cloth.

Spring clean

Use a steel wool soap pad to remove stubborn soils. Protect furniture by applying a coat of paste wax and buff with a clean, soft cloth.

Clean strap type furniture with a vinyl cleaner that contains bleach.

Spray surface with cleaner, keeping surface wet for 5 minutes to give the bleach a chance to work on any mildew stains. Scrub out stains on acrylics using a synthetic sponge, or use a plastic scrub on polyesters.

Rinse and dry thoroughly. Remove suntan lotion from synthetic cushions with a household cleaner containing pine oil.

Window Blinds

Routine clean

Dust regularly with a clean, soft cloth, or the brush attachment of the vacuum. Clean with water, gently scrubbing with a sponge or cloth. Dry with a clean, soft cloth.

Spring clean

Follow blind manufacturer's care instructions.

BRASS

Decorative Objects

Routine clean

Brass items coated with a lacquered finish require only dusting and an occasional rinsing in water. Dry with a clean, soft cloth. Do not use any cleaner on lacquered brass items.

Spring clean

For lacquered brass, rinse with warm water and dry with a soft cloth. To remove tarnish from unlacquered brass only, use a brass cleaner according to the label directions.

CHROME-PLATED STEEL

Appliances

Routine clean

Clean with a nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner, using a sponge or cloth. Rinse with a sponge or cloth wrung from clean water; dry with a clean, soft cloth.

Spring clean

Refer to appliance manufacturer's use and care manual for any special cleaning instructions.

Faucets/water valves (taps)

Routine clean

Clean with a damp sponge using a tub/tile/sink cleaner; abrasive or non-abrasive, all-purpose cleaner; glass cleaner or glass and multi-surface cleaner. Rinse and buff with a clean, soft cloth.

Spring clean

Follow faucet manufacturer's care instructions.

COPPER

Decorative Objects

Routine clean

Copper items coated with a lacquered finish require only dusting and an occasional rinsing in water. Dry with a clean, soft cloth. Do not use any cleaner on lacquered copper items.

Spring clean

For lacquered copper, rinse with warm water and dry with a soft cloth. To remove tarnish from unlacquered copper only, use a copper cleaner according to label directions.

PAINTED STEEL (ACRYLIC OR BAKED ENAMEL)

Appliance Exteriors, Cabinets, Portable Appliances

Routine cleaning

Clean with a nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner, using a sponge or cloth. Rinse with a sponge or cloth wrung from clean water; dry with a clean, soft cloth. Or, apply a creamy liquid kitchen wax that cleans and protects the surface as it is applied. Apply wax to a predampened cloth, and clean a small area (about a square foot) at a time. Buff with a clean dry cloth while wax is still moist.

Spring clean

Avoid using abrasive cleaners that could scratch the surface.

Appliances should be waxed only 3-4 times a year. Excess wax can build up, especially on textured surfaces.

STAINLESS STEEL

Appliance Exteriors, Sinks, Range tops

Routine clean

Clean with a stainless steel cleaner or an all-purpose cleaner or cleanser, using a sponge or cloth. Remove any stubborn stains using a paste of baking soda and water applied with a sponge or cloth.

Rinse with a sponge or cloth wrung from clean water; dry with a soft, clean cloth. Or, use a glass or glass and multi-surface cleaner. Towel dry to avoid water spots.

Spring clean

For heavy stains on a range tops, spray soil with a nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner. Then, cover with a damp paper towel for 15 minutes. Gently scrub clean.

VINYL-COATED STEEL

Appliance Exteriors

Routine cleans

Clean with a nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner, using a sponge or cloth. Rinse with a sponge or cloth wrung from clean water; dry with a clean, soft cloth. Or, use a glass or glass and multi-surface cleaner.

Spring cleans

The surface can be scratched, punctured or gouged, so care should be taken in cleaning.

PAINTED SURFACES

Ceilings, Furniture, Walls, Woodwork

Routine and Spring cleans

Test the washability of the surface by first washing an inconspicuous area. Use a nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner or a wood cleaner.

For walls, start at the bottom of the wall and work up to the ceiling, overlapping areas as you clean and using a circular motion. In this way, any dirty streaks can be wiped off the clean area and will not leave marks that are hard to remove.

PLASTICS

Appliances, Accessories

Routine cleans

Use a nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner. Rinse with clean water and dry with a clean, soft cloth.

Bathtubs, Shower Stalls, Sinks, Wall Tiles

Routine cleans

Use a tub/tile/sink cleaner; nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner; or a paste of baking soda and water. Apply the cleaner to the surface or on a damp sponge and rub gently. Rinse or wipe clean.

Specialty products are available. Follow label directions.

Spring cleans

Follow fixture/tile manufacturer's care instructions. Some plastic surfaces are not compatible with some cleaners.

If stain is heavy/deep, allow the solution to set on the surface for at least 30 seconds to loosen the dirt.

Furniture

Routine and Spring cleans

Use a nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner; glass and multi-surface cleaner; or a cleaner-polish. Rinse thoroughly and dry with a clean soft cloth.

Plastic Laminates, Cabinets, Countertops

Routine cleans

Clean with a nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner using a sponge or cloth. Rinse with a sponge or cloth wrung from clean water; dry with a clean, soft cloth. Or, apply a creamy liquid kitchen wax that cleans and protects the surface as it is applied. Apply wax to a predampened cloth and clean a small area (about a square foot) at a time. Buff with a clean, dry cloth while wax is still moist.

Spring cleans

A specially formulated cleaner can be used to renew countertop surfaces when they become dull and worn looking.

Avoid using abrasive cleansers that could dull or bleach products that could alter the colour of the surface.

Portable Appliances

Routine and Spring cleans

Use a nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner. Rinse with clean water and dry with a clean, soft cloth. Unplug any appliance before cleaning.

Refrigerator/Freezer

Routine and Spring cleans

To clean the inside walls of a refrigerator or freezer, use a nonabrasive all-purpose cleaner. Or use a solution of 2 tablespoons baking soda to a quart of warm water. Rinse thoroughly and dry with a clean, soft cloth.

Toilet Seats/Lids

Routine and Spring cleans

Clean with a nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner, using a sponge or cloth. Thoroughly rinse and dry hinge areas and bumpers.

Window Blinds

Routine cleans

Dust regularly with a clean, soft brush or the brush attachment of a vacuum. To clean, use water and scrub gently with a sponge or soft cloth. Dry with a clean, soft cloth. A furniture polish applied to the slats after cleaning will make dusting and cleaning easier.

Spring cleans

Follow blind manufacturer's care instructions. Use furniture polish sparingly to avoid a wax buildup.

Plastic windows

Routine checks

Use a cleaning product formulated for plastics.

Spring cleans

Household cleaners, cleansers and ammonia should not be used to clean plastic window and storm doors. Streaking in the plastic could occur.

PORCELAIN

Appliance Exteriors

Routine cleans

Wipe up spills and splatters immediately to make cleaning easier and to prevent discolouration from acid-containing spills.

Clean with a nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner, using a sponge or cloth. Rinse with a sponge or cloth. Or apply a creamy liquid kitchen wax that cleans and protects the surface as it is applied. Apply wax to a predampened cloth and clean a small area (about a square foot) at a time. Buff with a clean, dry cloth while wax is still moist.

Spring cleans

Avoid using abrasive cleansers that may scratch the surface.

Use wax sparingly to prevent a wax build-up.

Do not wipe a hot porcelain surface, e.g., range top, with a damp cloth as cracking and chipping can result.

Bathtubs, sinks

Routine cleans

Use a tub/tile/sink cleaner or a liquid abrasive or nonabrasive, all purpose cleaner. Apply the cleaner to a damp sponge or directly to the surface. Allow the cleaner to penetrate the soil, then rub or scour. Rinse with clean water.

Spring cleans

Specialty products are available to help remove soap scum, hard water mineral deposits and rust. Follow label instructions.

Oven Interior

Routine cleans

Use an oven cleaner for manually cleaned ovens. For cleaning continuous or self-cleaning ovens, follow appliance manufacturer's instructions.

Spring cleans

Do not use an oven cleaner on a self-cleaning or continuous cleaning oven. The cleaner may damage the surface.

RESILIENT FLOORING

Flooring (Asphalt Tile, Linoleum, Rubber Tile, Vinyl)

Routine cleans

Mix a nonabrasive, all purpose cleaner with warm water according to label directions. Clean the floor surface using a mop, sponge or cloth dipped in the solution and wring out. Change the cleaning solution as necessary.

Three categories of floor cleaning products are also available; some that clean, clean and add shine, or just add shine. Follow label directions for proper use.

Spring cleans

Check with flooring manufacturer for any special care instructions. Read cleaning product label for rinsing instructions; some products require rinsing, others do not.

No-wax Vinyl

Routine cleans

Mix a nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner with warm water according to the package directions. Clean the floor surface using a mop, sponge or cloth dipped in the solution and wrung out. Change the cleaning solution as necessary. Read cleaning product label for rinsing instructions - some products require rinsing, others do not.

Spring cleans

Scratches caused by grinding dirt and grit into the flooring can dull the finish. After a period of time it may be necessary to use some type of polish to help provide protection, fill in scratches and add shine. Use a floor cleaning product .One that cleans, cleans and shines, or adds shine. Follow label directions for proper use.

VITREOUS CHINA

Inside Toilet Bowls

Routine cleans

Use a toilet bowl cleaner and scrub the inside of the bowl with a toilet brush. Be sure to scrub under the rim of the bowl. Let the solution stand a few minutes; flush.

In hard water areas, clean the toilet bowl more frequently. Use a long-handled toilet brush to clean the rim holes, and as far into the trap as possible, in order to prevent mineral deposits from forming.

Spring cleans

Do not mix different types of toilet bowl cleaners together. For example, remove an in-tank cleaner before using another type of toilet bowl cleaner in the bowl. Do not use a toilet bowl cleaner to clean any surface other than the inside of the toilet bowl.

Outside Toilet Bowls

Routine and Spring cleans

Wash the outside of the bowl using a nonabrasive all-purpose cleaner or disinfectant cleaner and a sponge or cloth. Rinse the sponge or cloth and wipe the surfaces.

WALLPAPER

Washable wallpaper

Routine and Spring cleans

Test the washability of the surface by first washing an inconspicuous area. Use a special liquid wallpaper cleaner or a nonabrasive, all-purpose cleaner. Start at the bottom of a wall and work up to the ceiling, overlapping areas as you clean and using a circular motion. In this way, any dirty streaks can be wiped off the clean areas and will not leave marks that are hard to remove. Clean frequently to avoid a build-up of hard-to-remove soil.

Non-washable Wallpaper

Routine and Spring cleans

Use a special product (ground art gum in a bag) or a dough wallpaper cleaner. Start at the bottom of a wall and work up to the ceiling, overlapping areas as you clean and using a circular motion. In this way, any dirty streaks can be wiped off the clean areas and will not leave marks that are hard to remove. Clean frequently to avoid a build-up of hard-to-remove soil.

WOOD

Cabinets

Routine cleans

Use a product that cleans finished wood to remove fingerprints, smudges and other stains. A polish or wax may be used if a shine is desired. Buff with a soft cloth.

Spring cleans

Be sure wood is properly finished (varnished). Any substance, even water, used on unfinished or improperly finished wood can damage the surface.

Bread board

Routine and Spring cleans

Wash and scour with an abrasive cleanser, using a stiff brush. Rinse thoroughly with sponge. Periodically apply a coating of salad or mineral oil to make the wood more stain resistant. Avoid soaking with water so that the chopping block does not split or warp.

Floors

Routine cleans

Wipe up spills with a clean, damp sponge or cloth as soon as they occur. If using a water solution, wipe up any excess liquid. Liquids left standing on wood can damage the surface. Remove stubborn spots by rubbing with fine steel wool dipped in a wax. Or use a paste of baking soda and water.

Spring cleans

Use a wood cleaner or either a liquid or paste polish to clean and add a new wax coating.

Furniture

Routine cleans

Use a dusting product to pick up and retain light dust and soil. Product can be sprayed onto the surface or onto a dusting cloth.

Spring cleans

Remove dust and stains and add shine and protection with a furniture cleaner, cleaner polish or polish. Apply to surface and wipe with a clean, soft cloth.

Wall Panelling

Routine and Spring cleans

Use a wood cleaner and conditioner to clean and protect the finish.

Window Blinds

Routine cleans

Dust when needed using a soft brush or the brush attachment of a vacuum.

Spring cleans

Use a creamy liquid wax to clean and wax at the same time. Apply furniture polish to the slats after cleaning to make dusting and cleaning easier.

Bamboo Blinds

Routine and Spring cleans

Dust with a soft brush or the dusting attachment of the vacuum cleaner. Do not wash.

Woodwork

Routine and Spring cleans

Use a dusting product to pick up and retain light dust and soil. Product can be sprayed onto the surface or onto a dusting cloth. Remove dust and stains and add shine and protection with a furniture cleaner, cleaner-polish or polish. Apply to surface and wipe with a clean soft cloth.

CARPETS

Routine and Spring cleans

Like all textile materials, the beauty and life of a carpet depends largely on the care that it is given. Proper maintenance can add years of attractive life. In general, proper maintenance involves regular vacuuming and periodic cleaning by methods such as hot water extraction, shampooing, bonnet cleaning, foam cleaning, etc.

Regular vacuuming is essential as it removes particulate soil that damages the fibres. Vacuuming maintains the surface appearance of a carpet and keeps the level of soil in the pile at an acceptable level. Vacuuming should be done at least once every two weeks, preferably once each week and even twice per week in soiled or heavily trafficked areas. It is important to use a well-maintained, good quality vacuum. Vacuuming removes only particulate soil and surface dirt; therefore, other methods of cleaning are periodically required to improve the appearance of the carpet.

Wet cleaning methods are better for removing oils, greases and other forms of matter that cause soiling on carpet. These methods are mostly used by professional cleaners and trained personnel.

Removing carpet stains

- Scrape off any solids. Blot up liquids quickly, dabbing lightly with a clean white towel or paper towel.
- To remove greasy stains, apply a non-flammable dry-cleaning agent to the spot with a white towel. Work from the edges toward the centre. Don't scrub. Dab gently until the spot comes clean. Always pre-test any cleaning agent on an inconspicuous part of the carpet and let it dry before continuing.
- Coat less stubborn greasy stains with aerosol shaving cream or carbonated water. Use a hair dryer to speed dry. Then vacuum.
- Sprinkle a greasy stain with baking soda, cornstarch, cornmeal, or talcum powder. Leave on at least 6 hours, then vacuum.
- To remove water-soluble stains, apply some detergent solution (1 1/2 teaspoon mild detergent per pint of water), working from the edges to the centre of the stain. Place several layers of white tissues or paper towels over the spot and weight down with books or pots and pans. Let stand about one hour. Replace with fresh tissues or towels and leave overnight. Then fluff up the carpet pile with your fingers.