



Cleaning Guidelines for Household Surfaces

Updated: June 2020

SURFACE/MATERIAL	ITEM	DEFINITELY AVOID	USE THESE PRODUCTS INSTEAD	CLEANING PROCESSES RECOMMENDED	CLEANING TOOLS
Acrylic	Tub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abrasive scrubbing pads, steel wool, scrubbing sponges, wire brushes • Cleaners stating that they are not suitable for acrylic, ABS, polystyrene, or plastic • Solvents • Simple Green All-Purpose cleaner • Pine-Sol original • Scrubbing Bubbles • Tilex • The Works Tub & Shower Cleaner • Lysol with Hydrogen Peroxide • Windex Vinegar • Cleaning products in aerosol cans • Acetone • Chlorine bleach • Tobacco smoke – can permanently discolor surfaces • Drain cleaner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antibacterial dish soap • Dishwasher detergent • Lysol Power bathroom cleaner • CLR Bath & Kitchen • Formula 409 • Iron-Out Rust Stain Remover • Baking soda + dish detergent + an all-purpose cleaner, followed by car polish • Lemon: Cut in half and rub over any rough areas until hard water deposits loosen. Rinse with water and wipe dry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean once a week to prevent tough stains 	Terry cloth towel Soft cloth Sponge
Acrylic	Whirlpool tub		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oh Yuk cleaner • Dishwasher tablets/powder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill tub with hot water and 2 cups Cascade Complete or two tablets; run for 10 minutes 	
Acrylic or gloss finish	Cabinets		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novus No. 1 Plastic Clean & Shine 		Soft cloth to apply; soft dry cloth to buff
Acrylic	Other surfaces		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original Gel Gloss™ – One-step cleaner and wax removes surface scratches, removes water spots and seals 		
Caulk	Around tubs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawn dish soap and vinegar mix – add to a spray bottle, shake it, and spray. Wipe away; no scrubbing required. • Magic Eraser for rust stains • Hydrogen peroxide + baking soda + dish soap – for tub, tile and grout cleaning • Baking soda + water + Castile soap and essential oils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove mold by soaking cotton balls/cotton coils in bleach water, then apply around the edge of the tub overnight. 	Cotton balls/coils Spray bottle
Cast iron	Tub	Steel wool, wire brushes, or abrasive scrubbing sponges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barkeeper's Friend 		Nylon brush
Cast iron	Enameled sinks	Steel wool, wire brushes, or abrasive scrubbing sponges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kohler Cast Iron cleaner • Fantastik Antibacterial Heavy Duty • Formula 409 Antibacterial All-Purpose • Green Works All-Purpose • Soft Scrub Gel with Bleach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rinse thoroughly and dry with a soft cloth after every use. • Use abrasive cleaners very sparingly. • Dishes with food still on, coffee grounds, tea bags, and other staining items should not touch the enamel for extended periods. 	Soft cloth
Ceramic	Tubs and other surfaces		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detergent/mild dish soap, warm water 		Soft cloth
Ceramic	Flooring		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damp sponge mop and a solution of ¼ C white vinegar to 2 gallons of water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be sure any tile cleaner used is also safe for grout. • Always allow to fully dry before use. 	Sponge mop

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Corian	Countertops, shower walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid abrasives, chlorinated solvents, paint removers and strong acids like sulfuric or hydrochloric acid. • Drain cleaners should not be used. Damage caused by these agents should be fixed by a professional. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-abrasive household cleaners, with a cloth or sponge • White vinegar (to dissolve limestone, remove soap scum and mildew) • Countertop Magic polish (to enhance shine), or furniture polish, as long as it is food-grade • Eliminate® shower cleaner - Works well on everyday soap spots, calcium/hard water spots • Repel and Ultra Glass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not place hot cookware or bakeware on a solid surface; always use trivets/hot pads. • Always use a cutting board. • Using protective polishing products like Gel-Gloss™ after each cleaning will continually make cleaning easier. 	Soft cloth or sponge
Fiberglass	Misc.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original Gel Gloss™ – one step cleaner and wax, removes surface scratches, removes water spots and seals 		
Formica					
Glass					
Glass	Shower doors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not use bleach or chlorine. • Do not use steel wool or abrasive scrubbing sponges. • Do not use abrasive or acid-based cleaners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windex • Lysol 4-in-1 Bathroom Cleaner • Fantastic Orange Action • Green Works Natural Glass & Surface Cleaner • Clean Shower Daily Cleaner • For lime deposits or hard water mineral deposits like calcium, use a vinegar and water solution (1 part vinegar to 5 parts water) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After each use, swipe walls and doors with a squeegee to maintain the brand-new look. • Clean every few weeks with a damp microfiber cloth and mild detergent to remove soap scum and grime. 	Squeegee Microfiber cloth
Glass inserts on wood doors	Cabinets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ammonia-based cleaner – especially directly sprayed on surface. This can damage the surface of the wood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vinegar and water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spray cleaner on cloth only; then wipe off stains or splashes. 	Clean, dry cloth
Granite	Countertops, backsplashes, floors/walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not use cutting utensils/knives on this surface – they will dull. • Use hot pads/trivets on surfaces. • Do not use harsh chemicals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm water and mild detergent – then rinse with warm water and dry thoroughly • StoneTECH® cleaner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blot all spills immediately. 	
Grout: Sanded and unsanded	n/a		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a neutral-ph cleaner with a clean-water rinse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sealing is recommended but not mandatory. Sealing should be redone once a year. • Keep floor tiles free from heavy traffic for 72 hours after grouting. • Grout must be cured for 21 days before regular cleaning. • Protect walls from impact, vibration and hammering for 14 days after installation. • Remove any fatty acid residue from grout surfaces immediately to avoid grout deterioration. 	Soft cloth
Grout: Self-sealing	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not use vinegar or acid-based cleaners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use StoneTECH® Professional Cleaner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wait 7 days after installation before cleaning any grouted area. 	
Hardware	Cabinets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brass or silver polish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mild soap, warm water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buff with dry cloth. 	Soft cloth
Laminate	Countertops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knives will scratch the surface; use cutting boards. • High-temperature appliances (electric kettles, teapots, crock pots, electric frying pans) will damage the surface. Be sure to use trivets or hot pads. • Sliding ceramic bowls or unglazed materials can cause scratching. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean damp cotton cloth and mild detergent; rinse and dry with cotton cloth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce heavy stains with baking soda and water paste – but do not rub. Wipe the paste with a clean, damp cotton cloth and rinse. • Periodic applications of self-cleaning wax can minimize the potential for stains. 	Soft cloth

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Laminate	Flooring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use a vacuum with a power brush head or buffing/polishing machines. Do not use scouring powder, soap, wax, polishes, oils, shine enhancers, varnishes, silicon or ammonia. Do not use 2-in-1 cleaners with polish as these contain acrylics or urethane. Do not use oil-soap detergent (Murphy's) or any other liquid cleaning material as this could de-laminate or warp the flooring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Products made for laminate floor care, like Shaw's RX2 Hard Surface Flooring Cleaner Remove stains like paint, oil, marker, or lipstick with an acetone-based fingernail polish remover on a clean cloth, then wipe the area with a damp cloth to remove any residue Use ice to harden candle wax or gum, then scrape with a putty knife or plastic scraper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not allow liquids to stand; immediately wipe up wet areas, and use a damp cloth to blot spills as soon as possible. Vacuum or sweep with a soft bristle broom, especially in high-traffic areas, as sand/grit/dirt can build up and scratch the floor. Always allow time to dry fully. 	Soft cloth Vacuum Soft bristle broom Plastic scraper/putty knife
Marble	Floors and other surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Murphy's Oil Soap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original Gel Gloss™ – one step cleaner and wax, removes surface scratches, removes water spots and seals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floor buffing machines can remove fine scratches and restore the original shine and polish. 	Floor-buffing machine
Natural stone	Countertops, backsplashes, walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scouring powders or creams with abrasives Some soaps, shampoos, and hair dye can etch or stain stone surfaces. Do not use rust removers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use StoneTECH® cleaner for natural stone To remove stains, blot the spill with paper towel immediately but do not wipe. Flush the area with water and mild soap and rinse thoroughly. Dry with a soft cloth. Stone poultice will remove stains and grout haze Marble polish can be used to restore shine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires sealing. 	Soft cloth
Natural Stone	Flooring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use any cleaner containing lemon, vinegar, alkaline, abrasives, or bleach. Some soaps, shampoos, and hair dye can etch or stain stone surfaces. Do not use rust removers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use StoneTECH® cleaner for natural stone. Apply a mix of the solution and water with a damp mop or sponge. Change the water often. Marble polish or spray-wax floor finish can be used to restore shine. Polish can also be enhanced with floor-buffing machines. For heavy-duty cleaning, use a specialty cleaner with low VOC (volatile organic compounds). Agitate with a sponge or mop or floor-scrubbing machine. Rinse thoroughly and buff dry. Stone poultice will remove stains and grout haze. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires sealing once a year. To remove stains, blot the spill with paper towel immediately but do not wipe. Flush the area with water and mild soap and rinse thoroughly. Dry with a soft cloth. 	Soft cloth Mop Sponge Paper towel Floor-buffing machine
Onyx	Countertops, shower walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not place hot cookware or bakeware on a solid surface; always use trivets/hot pads. Always use a cutting board. Avoid abrasives, chlorinated solvents, paint removers and strong acids like sulfuric or hydrochloric acid. Drain cleaners should not be used. Damage caused by these agents should be fixed by a professional. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-abrasive household cleaners with a cloth or sponge White vinegar to dissolve limestone, remove soap scum and kill mildew Countertop Magic polish can be used to enhance shine, or furniture polish, as long as it is food-grade Eliminate® - A shower cleaner that works well on everyday soap spots, calcium and hard water spots. Repel and Ultra Glass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applying a protective polishing product like Gel-Gloss™ after each cleaning will continually make cleaning easier. 	Soft cloth or sponge
Paint	n/a		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean with mild household detergent and a soft cloth/sponge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wait 2 weeks before washing a newly painted surface. 	Soft cloth Sponge
Porcelain	Any		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original Gel Gloss™ – one step cleaner and wax, removes surface scratches, removes water spots and seals 		
Quartz	Countertops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always use a cutting board. Avoid scrubbing sponges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean with mild detergent + tap water and rinse thoroughly Polished quartz can be cleaned with 409, Fantastik, Lysol or Windex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dried residues should be scraped with a plastic scraper or putty knife, then the spot should soak with warm water before cleaning. For very stubborn stains, soak the area for 10 minutes with an approved cleaner and vigorously wipe with a non-scratching sponge, then rinse well. 	Plastic scraper/putty knife Non-abrasive sponge
Stainless steel	Frames of shower doors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use bleach or chlorine. Do not use steel wool or abrasive scrubbing sponges. Do not use abrasive or acid-based cleaners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular cleaning can be done with a soft clean cloth, bristle brush or sponge with a mild cleaning liquid and warm water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wipe any water off after each shower with a clean dry cloth. Make sure your shower/bathroom is properly ventilated. Clean rust spots with detergent especially made for stainless steel. Always rinse the surface well and wipe dry after cleaning. 	Soft cloth Soft bristle brush Sponge

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Stainless steel	Sinks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use abrasives like Old Dutch, Cameo, or Comet. Do not use scrubbing pads or steel wool. Do not use chlorine/bleach. Some antibacterial hand soaps may contain chlorine; read labels carefully before use. Foods like pickles, mayo, mustard, and other heavily salted foods can cause pitting of the surface if left unattended. Do not leave cast iron, rubber dish mats, wet sponges, or cleaning pads in the sink overnight as they can discolor the surface. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply stainless steel cleaner/polish with a nonabrasive soft cloth and sponge, and work with the grain Blancoclean Barkeeper’s Friend Soft Scrub with Bleach Zud Gordon’s Miracle Shine Shiney Sinks Plus Fantastik Antibacterial Heavy Duty Formula 409 Antibacterial Flitz Polish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rinse thoroughly and dry with a soft cloth after every use. Wiping is key as this will inhibit water spotting and mineral deposits, especially in hard-water areas. Frequent regular cleaning is better than heavy cleaning on a sporadic basis. If mineral content builds up over time, a weak solution of vinegar and water should remove it, then flush the surface with water. 	Soft cloth Sponge
Tile: Textured porcelain	Flooring, backsplashes, showers, tub surrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use ammonia, bleach, or acid. Do not use wax-based, oil-based, abrasives, or sealants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saturate the tile with a neutral cleaning solution like vinegar and hot water. Allow the cleaning solution to remain on the surface for 5-10 minutes, then scrub with a brush. Rinse well to remove solution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweep with a soft bristle broom. Sweep in two directions, first the direction of the tile, then diagonally. 	Soft bristle broom Nylon brush
Tile: Glazed	Flooring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use ammonia, bleach, or acid. Do not use wax-based, oil-based, abrasives, or sealants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean regularly with an all-purpose low-VOC household cleaner; it should also be grout-compatible. A multipurpose spray cleaner can remove soap scum, hard water deposits, and mildew. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweep or vacuum, then use a cotton dry dust mop. Mop with a mild cleaning solution. Rinse thoroughly and dry well to increase shine and remove cleaner residue. 	Broom/vacuum Cotton dust mop
Tile: Unglazed or natural stone	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use ammonia, bleach, or acid. Do not use wax-based, oil-based, abrasives, or sealants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a neutral-pH tile cleaner that is suited for cleaning grout Clean stone with StoneTECH® Professional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural stone should be sealed yearly. 	
Tile: Accent or decorative	Backsplashes, countertops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use ammonia, bleach, or acid. Do not use wax-based, oil-based, abrasives, or sealants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glass mosaic tile can be cleaned with room temperature water and a rag. Use tile or grout cleaner for stains. Shell mosaics can react with acids like vinegar, acidic foods, and carbonated beverages. Clean with a damp cloth or gentle furniture polish. 		Soft cloth
Wood	Cabinets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper towels, brushes, scourers or scrapers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mild soap if needed 		Damp, lint-free soft cloth
Wood	Countertops or cutting boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not soak in water or place in dishwasher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mineral oil: Clean the wood surface gently (using half a lemon and a splash of salt), and dry well. Apply oil evenly with a soft cloth. Let oil soak overnight, then wipe off any excess before using. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After each use, wipe with damp cloth and dry thoroughly. 	Soft cloth
Various	Faucets and fixtures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faucet coatings can be damaged with citric fruits and juices, salt, vinegar, mustard, pickles, mayo, berries, tea, coffee grounds, and tomato sauces. Do not use window cleaner on any faucet or fixture with a coating or custom finish. Do not use steam cleaners on faucets or fixtures. Avoid using bleach-based cleaners. Do not use tarnish or rust-removing cleaners as they can damage finishes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formula 409 Antibacterial All-Purpose Cleaner Green Works All-Purpose Cleaner Fantastik All-Purpose Cleaner Faucets with clear knob handles should be cleaned with acrylic-approved cleaners or mild soap and water For showerheads, remove mineral deposits by unscrewing the showerhead and soaking in a 1:1 vinegar and water solution for several hours. Scrub stubborn deposits with a soft toothbrush. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When using spray cleaners, do not spray directly on to faucet or fixture; spray into a cloth and apply that way. Dry after each use; if water evaporates from fixtures, this can lead to mineral deposits. Clean with damp sponge and buff dry with a clean soft cloth. Remove water spots with warm water and a damp soft cloth. Occasional cleaning with a non-abrasive polish will prevent water deposits and remove build-up from soap, creams, and sprays. Occasionally applying a high-quality non-abrasive wax (car wax or furniture polish) can preserve their luster 	Sponge Soft cloth Toothbrush
Various	Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use in-tank toilet cleaners. Do not use cleansers, polish or detergents that have gritty or coarse particles. Do not use acid or alkaline detergents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clorox Disinfecting Bathroom Cleaner Fantastik Antibacterial Heavy Duty Formula 409 Antibacterial Green Works All-Purpose Cleaner Lysol Bathroom Cleaner Soft Scrub Gel with Bleach Super Iron Out Rust Stain Remover Barkeeper’s Friend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use soft bristled plastic brushes. Wipe up splashes of cleaning solution immediately. 	Soft bristle plastic toilet brush