



# Special Cleaning Preparations and Methods

Organize your cleaning tasks to fit into a work schedule. Some tasks must be done daily, others weekly and some only occasionally or even seasonally. A chart will help you to keep an accurate record. Study the chart to see if a more efficient plan of work could be followed. Perhaps some jobs could be eliminated, combined with another task or done at another time or by another person.

Cleaning need not be drudgery. If good preparations and methods are used you may find that keeping a clean house can be fun.

KEEP THIS SHEET AS A HANDY REFERENCE

## Homemade Cleaning Polish

To 1 cup of hot water, add: 1 tablespoon of mild liquid detergent (dish washing), 3 tablespoons of boiled linseed oil (buy it boiled), 2 tablespoons turpentine, 1 tablespoon vinegar, 1 tablespoon very fine pumice. Put into a pint jar and shake. Apply with a cloth. Remove excess with a clean, soft cloth. Polish across the grain of the wood, then with the grain. Continue until finger marks will not show when you touch the surface. (Polish may be stored, but shake before using.)

## Homemade Lemon Polish for Furniture

Mix equal parts of denatured alcohol or denatured alcohol solvent, fresh strained lemon juice (do not use canned or frozen juice), olive oil and gum turpentine. Shake mixture each time before using. This polish keeps indefinitely.

## Polish for Oil-Rubbed Finish

For new furniture rub once a month for the first 3 or 4 months with a mixture of  $\frac{1}{2}$  boiled linseed oil and  $\frac{1}{2}$  gum turpentine. Use a dry, coarse cloth to rub mixture into the pores of the wood. Wipe off surplus until wood appears dry. For older furniture, rub especially the top of the table every 6 to 8 months with a mixture of  $\frac{2}{3}$  boiled linseed oil and  $\frac{1}{3}$  gum turpentine (not steam distilled). Apply to underside of table leaves to prevent warping.

## Solution for Washing Walls

Combine  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup tri-sodium phosphate with 1 cup household ammonia, or 1 cup vinegar and 1 gallon warm water. Wash ceiling first. Start cleaning walls from bottom so dripping water will not streak the wall. Wipe dry.

## Solution for Washing Windows

Make a solution of  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of ammonia or  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup of vinegar, 1 gallon of warm water and  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of nonprecipitating water softener. Polish windows with old newspapers or lintless rags.

## Cleanser for Fireplace Bricks

Fireplace bricks can be cleaned with a solution of 1 gallon warm water and  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup tri-sodium phosphate. If a stronger treatment is needed, a dilute solution (1 part acid - 8 parts water) of muriatic acid can be used. Follow immediately with a thorough water rinse. Handle the solution carefully. Wear rubber gloves. The acid can damage fabric and wood surfaces.

## Floor Cleaner

One gallon warm water, 1 cup mild liquid detergent, 3 oz. household ammonia; or, with soft water, in place of detergent use  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups mild soap powder. One-fourth cup of tri-sodium phosphate may be added if heavily soiled. Rinse the floor with warm water and dry before rewaxing. Use water sparingly on wood.

*For Black Heel Marks* use floor wax on a pad of Triple Zero steel wool.

## Cleaning Refrigerator

Defrost the refrigerator, remove all the contents and wash out the interior with a baking soda solution, using 3 tablespoons soda to 1 quart of water. Wipe the walls and floor of the box dry, replace the food and turn on the electricity.

## Cleaning Freezer

The quickest way to defrost the home freezer is to remove the food and cover it with blankets, then disconnect the freezer and blow air into the freezer with an electric fan until the frost loosens and can be scraped off. Or cover the bottom of the freezer with bath towels, set several dishpans of hot water in the freezer and close the lid for 20 to 30 minutes. Then remove the dishpans of water and scrape the frost on to the towels. Wash the inside of the box with a baking soda solution, using 3 tablespoons soda to a quart of water. You may want to use a detergent solution to wash the rubber gaskets around the door. Wipe the inside dry connecting the freezer and replacing the food.

## Odor in Refrigerator or Freezer

Defrost and clean out the box according to the directions above. Operate the unit overnight with shallow bowls of vinegar inside. Defrost in the morning and wash out again, using the soda solution. Be sure to wash the rubber gaskets with a detergent solution using a small brush. If an odor persists put an opened can of activated charcoal in the box. This should absorb any remaining odors. In extreme cases of spoiled food these steps may have to be repeated, but the

odor will come out eventually unless the odor has gone into the insulation.

### **Cleaning Metals**

Most metals used for appliances and equipment can be cleaned with a detergent solution, but if tarnished or heavily soiled they will require a commercial metal polish.

*Oven Cleaning* is easily accomplished if ammonia is poured into a saucer and set in the bottom of the oven overnight. The oven vent should be closed. The pilot may be left on in a gas range. In the morning take out the dish and wipe out the residue. It is better to clean the oven before it gets too soiled. Baked on materials may require scouring with a pad.

### **Cleaning Bathroom Tile and Enamel Fixtures**

Wash with warm, sudsy water and rinse well. To remove soap curd and hard-water deposits, add  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup nonprecipitating water softener to the detergent solution or make a paste of the softener and water and use like cleanser.

*For Rust Stains* from dripping faucets, use 1 tablespoon oxalic acid crystals (poisonous) dissolved in  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup warm water. Apply to the stain, allow to stand a few minutes and rinse well. Avoid strong acids or harsh chemicals in removing rust because the glaze may be affected.

### **Table and Counter Tops**

Laminated plastic surfaces like table and counter tops require regular washing with mild soap or detergent. A furniture wax or polish specifically for this surface will help preserve the luster.

*Marble Surfaces* should be washed frequently using warm water and clean cloths. About twice yearly (or as needed) wash with a mild detergent to remove dirt residue. Scrub with a fiber brush and then rinse and wipe dry, using a soft dry cloth. A light paste wax will protect against scratches, etching and staining, but should not be used on white marble as it will yellow it. Stains will require treatment using a poultice.

*Water or Heat Marks* on furniture can be removed by rubbing with regular cooking oil. Pour a few drops of the oil onto the spot, dip your fingertips into the oil and into some salt and rub the area. If persistent, cover the spot with more oil and leave for several hours.

### **Glass or Crystal**

Wash with a hot detergent solution; rinse and polish with a lintless cloth. For stains and cloudiness, fill with water containing 1 or 2 teaspoons ammonia and let stand for several hours or overnight. Wash and rinse again.

### **Cleaning Stains on Teflon**

Mix 2 tablespoons baking soda and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup liquid household bleach with 1 cup water. Boil this solution 5 to 10 minutes in the stained pan. (May double or triple amount for large kettle.) After this treatment, thoroughly wash, rinse and dry the pan. Wipe it with salad oil before using.

### **Season Cast Iron Utensils**

Scour with scouring powder and stiff brush. Wash in hot soap suds, rinse and dry thoroughly. Coat the inside of the

pot and cover generously with unsalted fat and heat slowly in a warm oven or over low heat for several hours. Apply additional fat during process. Wipe off excess when seasoning is complete but grease before and after using for first few weeks.

*Aluminum Kettles* that have discolored can be cleaned by boiling a solution of 2 teaspoons cream of tartar to each quart of water in them.

*Lime Scale* which forms in teakettle or sterilizers can be loosened with boiling water and vinegar (half and half). Let it stand in kettle overnight, then scrape out the deposit with steel wool.

### **Cleaning the Steam Iron**

Fill steam iron with  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup distilled water and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup white vinegar (most irons hold 1 cup), let stand overnight and then steam out in the morning. Fill again with distilled water; steam it out. Wipe the sole plate with rubbing alcohol and before using run the iron over waxed paper. Always use distilled water in your iron for the best performance.

### **Cleaning Upholstered Furniture**

Vacuum the furniture thoroughly. Make a solution of 1 teaspoon mild detergent and 1 quart warm water. Work this into a lather and apply only the suds with a cloth or sponge using a rotary motion. Be sure to get into the crevices. A ruler may help. Scrape off the soiled suds. Rinse by wiping with a towel that has been dampened with clear water and wrung almost dry. To hasten drying use an electric fan.

*Leather Furniture* can be cleaned with either saddle soap or mild soap and warm water. Work up a good lather and then thoroughly wash the leather. Wipe it clean with a slightly damp cloth and dry with a soft cloth. You should repeat this process on your leather upholstery as often as it becomes soiled. There are commercial cleaners for leather that contain lanolin which also feeds the leather and will keep it soft and supple.

### **Shampoo for General Carpet Cleaning**

Vacuum carpet thoroughly. Mix 1 teaspoon mild liquid detergent, 1 teaspoon white vinegar and 1 quart warm water. Whip up to a good lather either with the hand or an electric beater. Apply just the suds with a sponge or use an electric or manual shampooer. **DO NOT SOAK!** Wipe off the suds with a towel dipped in water and wrung out almost dry. Allow to dry naturally or use an electric fan. When thoroughly dry vacuum to raise the nap.

*Animal Stains* are extremely difficult to remove and once they dry are almost impossible so it is important to work quickly. Blot up excess liquid. Make a solution of 1 teaspoon neutral detergent and 1 cup warm water. Work up a lather and apply just the lather. Blot with tissue. Then mix a solution of  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup white vinegar and  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup warm water. Moisten the area slightly with the solution and allow it to set for 2 to 3 minutes. Absorb the remaining solution with tissues. Lastly, place a layer of tissues  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thick over the area and weight down with books for 6 hours.

### **GREASY STAINS REQUIRE A GREASE SOLVENT**

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