

GRANDMA'S EASY CLEANING

The Easy Cleaning Bible

150+ Simple Cleaning Solutions for a Cleaner Home With
Less Scrubbing, Less Spending, and Less Work



A cleaner home doesn't have to mean more work.

WITH GRANDMA MARGARET

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PRINTABLE PAGE

The Five Rules of Easy Cleaning

Keep this page where you keep your cleaning supplies. Every method in this book follows these five rules.

- **Rule 1. Use the right cleaner for the surface.** Check the maker's care guide and the product label before you start, and test on a small hidden spot¹.
- **Rule 2. Give approved products the correct working time.** Let a cleaner sit as its label directs. Keep a disinfectant wet for its full contact time².
- **Rule 3. Use tools that reduce unnecessary effort.** Microfiber, long handles, a squeegee and a caddy do more of the work and ask less of your back and knees.
- **Rule 4. Prevent buildup whenever practical.** Dry, wipe and ventilate as you go, so a thin layer never becomes a thick one.
- **Rule 5. Clean consistently rather than waiting for a major mess.** A few minutes each day keeps the big jobs small.
- **And always:** never mix cleaning products, keep them in their original containers, and store them out of reach of children and pets³.

♥ GRANDMA MARGARET'S TIP

Tape this page inside the cabinet door where your cleaners live. It answers most questions before they need asking.

Sources: 1 Procter & Gamble · 2 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency · 3 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and...

SOLUTION 001

Soap Scum on Shower Glass

🕒 **ACTIVE** 10 to 15 minutes ⌛ **WAITING** 5 minutes 📏 **DIFFICULTY** Easy 📅 **HOW OFTEN** Weekly

🔍 THE PROBLEM

The shower glass has gone cloudy and a little rough to the touch, and the haze comes back no matter how often you rinse it. Ordinary wiping just moves it around.

🧺 WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Warm water
- Mild dish detergent
- A non-scratch sponge
- A squeegee
- A dry microfiber cloth

☰ THE EASY METHOD

- 1 Run the shower warm for a minute to soften the film, then turn it off.
- 2 Mix a little dish detergent into a bowl of warm water and wet the whole glass with the sponge.
- 3 Let the soapy water sit for about five minutes while you wipe the fixtures.
- 4 Work the glass from top to bottom with the soft side of the sponge, using light pressure.
- 5 Rinse with clean warm water and pull the squeegee down in overlapping strokes.
- 6 Dry the edges and the bottom track with the microfiber cloth.

💡 WHY IT WORKS

Detergent loosens the greasy part of the film so it lifts away with gentle wiping instead of hard scrubbing. Drying the glass afterward stops fresh mineral spots from forming as the water evaporates². *On timing:* Much less once the squeegee habit is in place.

⚠️ IMPORTANT PRECAUTIONS

- Delta tells owners to clean its shower doors only with mild detergent and warm, soapy water³.
- Do not use steel wool or aggressive scrub brushes on shower doors³. They can scratch the glass and any factory coating.
- If your glass has a protective coating, follow the maker's care sheet: some cleaners can void the warranty³.
- Keep a dry bath mat down while you work so you are not standing on a wet floor.

♥️ *Grandma Margaret's Tip*

Keep a squeegee hanging inside the shower and give the glass a quick pass after each use. It is the cheapest way there is to keep scrubbing off your list.

🛡️ KEEP IT CLEAN LONGER

Squeegee or towel the glass dry after every shower. Clean weekly before buildup has a chance to harden.

Sources: 1 Penn State Materials Research Science and... · 2 Delta Faucet Company · 3 Delta Faucet Company

See also: [022 Water Spots on Shower Doors](#) p. 53

SOLUTION 026

Greasy Stovetops, Grates and Glass Cooktops

🕒 **ACTIVE** 15 to 20 minutes ⌛ **WAITING** 15 minutes 📏 **DIFFICULTY** Easy 📅 **HOW OFTEN** Weekly

🔍 **THE PROBLEM**

Grease and cooked-on drips coat the burner grates and caps, and the cooktop around them feels sticky.

❓ **WHY IT HAPPENS**

Spatters bake on each time a burner runs, and acidic spills such as tomato can affect the finish of grates and caps¹. On glass, evaporated water and food leave a metallic mineral sheen².

🧺 **WHAT YOU'LL NEED**

- Warm water and dish detergent
- A mild abrasive cleaner and a nonabrasive sponge
- An approved glass cooktop cream, for a smooth top
- The razor scraper your cooktop maker recommends
- A dry cloth

☰ **THE EASY METHOD**

- 1 Turn the burners off and let the grates, caps and cooktop cool.
- 2 Set the grates and caps gently into warm, soapy water, without knocking them together¹.
- 3 Scrub them with a mild abrasive cleaner and a nonabrasive sponge, then rinse¹. Check your manual before using the dishwasher.
- 4 On glass, rub cooktop cream over the soil and hold the razor scraper at about 45 degrees against burned-on spots².
- 5 Wipe off all the cream with a dry cloth before the cooktop is heated again².
- 6 Dry the caps completely and set each one flat on its matching base¹.

💡 **WHY IT WORKS**

Soaking softens baked grease so a gentle scrub lifts it. The cream is made to remove the mineral sheen that water leaves on glass². *On timing:* Grates soak while you do the glass.

⚠️ **IMPORTANT PRECAUTIONS**

- GE warns that sponges or cleaners other than those it recommends can damage a glass cooktop².
- Whirlpool says burner caps are not dishwasher safe, and caps and grates must never go through a self-clean cycle¹.
- If plastic melts on hot glass, turn the burner off, wear a mitt and scrape it to a cool area; bonded plastic usually cannot be removed².

♥ **Grandma Margaret's Tip**

Wipe up tomato sauce and other acidic splashes as soon as the cooktop has cooled, rather than saving them for the weekly clean.

🛡️ **KEEP IT CLEAN LONGER**

Lift pans rather than sliding them across glass, which leaves metal marks².

Sources: 1 Whirlpool Corporation · 2 GE Appliances

See also: **038 Range Hood Grease and Filters** p. 72; **039 Grease and Splashes on the Kitchen Backsplash** p. 73

The Surface Chart

Find your surface in the left column before you pick up a cleaner. When the chart and your manufacturer disagree, follow the manufacturer.

Surface	Recommended approach	Avoid	Special precautions
Ceramic tile	Vacuum, then mop with a soapless pH-neutral cleaner; rinse with clear water and dry.	Acid cleaners unless your tile maker allows them; leaving cleaner on the tile.	Leftover cleaner dulls tile and makes it soil faster. Makers disagree on acids, so check yours.
Porcelain tile	Clear water or a soapless pH-neutral cleaner; rinse and dry. Soft nylon brush on textured tile.	Acid-based or solvent-based chemicals on polished porcelain.	Polished tile is slick when wet. Daltile does not recommend sealing its glazed porcelain.
Sealed hardwood floors	Dust-mop or vacuum, then mist lightly with a pH-neutral wood floor cleaner and a flat mop.	Mop and bucket, steam mops, vinegar, wax and oil soap.	Steam may void a floor warranty. Do the water-drop test to confirm the floor is finished.
Laminate floors	Dust-mop or vacuum; clean with a barely damp mop, water only unless your maker approves a cleaner.	Standing water, steamers, beater bars, detergents, soaps, waxes and polishes.	Pergo and Mohawk disagree on vinegar; follow your own brand. Wipe seams dry.
Luxury vinyl plank	Sweep or dry dust-mop, then damp-mop with the cleaner your maker names.	Ammonia, vinegar, detergent, wax, citrus, floor polish, abrasives, rotating beater bars.	No steam mop unless approved for your floor. Choose mats without latex or rubber backings.
Natural stone (marble, limestone, travertine, granite)	Blot spills at once; wash with a neutral stone cleaner or mild dishwashing detergent and warm water; dry.	Vinegar, lemon and all acids; scouring powders; rust removers and toilet-bowl cleaners.	Sealing makes stone stain resistant, not stain proof, and does not stop etching. Use coasters.
Engineered stone (quartz)	Warm water and a soft cloth; mild or neutral soap only if your brand allows it.	Abrasive pads, oven cleaners, paint strippers, sealers and polishes; bleach unless your maker allows it.	Makers disagree on soap and bleach. Never mix bleach with any other cleaner. Use trivets.
Wall-to-wall carpet	Vacuum at least weekly; blot spills with plain white cloths; rinse spots with clear water.	Scrubbing; leaving spot cleaner in the fibers; steam cleaning after pet accidents.	Professional deep cleaning every 12 to 18 months. Keep people and pets off wet spots.

CHECKLIST 5 • BATHROOM

Weekly Bathroom Cleaning

Once a week, about 30 minutes

Date: _____

Done by: _____

- ☐ Ventilate, and put on gloves if your cleaner's label asks for them
- ☐ Clear the counter and tub ledges
- ☐ Apply a cleaner suited to each surface and give it its label time
- ☐ Dust the exhaust fan cover with an extendable duster, from the floor
- ☐ Clean the toilet bowl
- ☐ Wipe the outside of the toilet, top to bottom, with a separate cloth
- ☐ Clean the tub and shower with a long-handled, non-scratch brush and rinse
- ☐ Clean the sink and faucet, then dry them
- ☐ Clean the mirror and dry its edges
- ☐ Wipe the light switch, door handle and cabinet pulls
- ☐ Empty and wipe the wastebasket
- ☐ Wash or shake out the bath mat
- ☐ Mop the floor and let it dry before walking on it

Note: Use one product at a time and rinse before you switch. Never use bleach with a toilet bowl cleaner¹.

Sources: 1 Poison Control

In The Easy Cleaning Bible: Solution 025, Weekly Bathroom Maintenance; Solution 008, Toilet Bowl Maintenance; Solution 009, Cleaning the Outside of the Toilet; Solution 004, Bathtub Residue and Rings; Solution 005, Shower Wall Buildup; Solution 010, Streak-Free Bathroom Mirrors; Solution 012, Bathroom Exhaust Fan Dust; Solution 024, High-Touch Bathroom Surfaces; Solution 019, Cleaning the Bathroom Floor; Solution 023, Cleaning the Bathroom Trash Can; Solution 017, Bath Mat Maintenance

NOTES

This is a free sample.

These 7 pages are copied unchanged from The Easy Cleaning Bible and the 30 Printable Cleaning Checklists. The links inside them only work in the full files. The complete bundle has 389 more pages.