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EC87-419 Home Furnishings Care — *Cleaning and Stain Removal*

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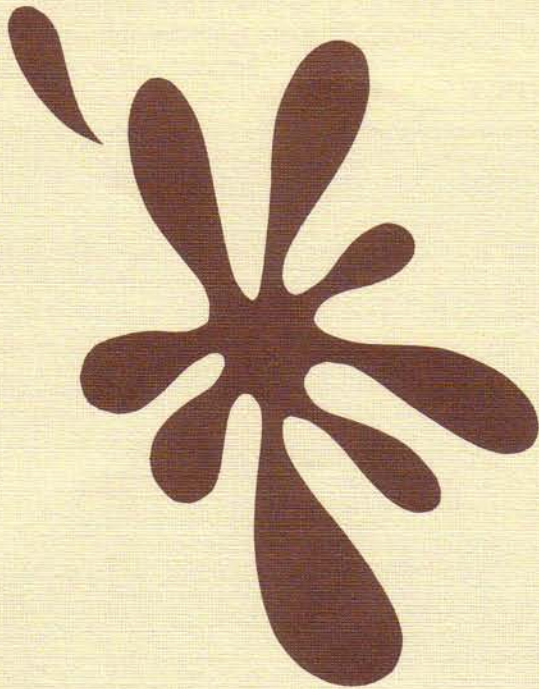
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Home Furnishings Care— *Cleaning and Stain Removal*



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Home Furnishings Care — Cleaning and Stain Removal focuses on general care of home furnishings items. For information on the care of antiques, valued family keepsakes and fragile items, consult a museum curator or conservationist knowledgeable about the material. EC 85-413 *Family Keepsakes* focuses on care and cleaning of valued keepsakes and is available from the Cooperative Extension Service. Fact sheets also are available on "Care and Display of Glass", and "Preservation of Metal Items".

To avoid potential damage to items being cleaned, pretest any cleaning agent and method in an inconspicuous area or on a similar sample.

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Home Furnishings Care — Cleaning And Stain Removal

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Furniture and accessories are a major investment. With proper care, furnishings can be a lifetime investment. Many new and traditional materials are used in furnishings and accessories. Knowing how to care for these materials can prevent damage. Selecting the right product for the job will save time, money, frustration and disappointments; and do a better job. Procedures for caring for different types of furnishings materials are given in this booklet.

GENERAL CLEANING PROCEDURES

- **Cleaners left on too long may damage the surface.** Allow the cleaning solution to stay on the surface just long enough to loosen soil, then wipe it off. Follow label directions.
- **Heavy scrubbing or scouring with abrasives can cause scratches on surfaces.** Usually, an easy motion is enough.
- **Change the cleaning solution when necessary.** The dirt you remove becomes suspended in the cleaning solution. If the solution gets too dirty, some of the dirt will get redeposited as smudges, streaks or film.
- **Rinse as necessary to prevent streaking or filming.** Follow the product directions.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT PRODUCT

Know the Material

Different surfaces require different cleaning products and methods. Know the material in the object you are cleaning. Modern technology has created remarkable look-alikes. Is the "marble" really marble? Is the furniture wood or plastic? Does the table have a glass or plastic surface? When in doubt, go directly to the manufacturer or retailer. Keep labels and cleaning directions for future reference in cleaning.

Know the Type of Soil Present

The type of soil and how long it has been present determines how difficult it will be to remove, and the methods and products to use for removal.

1. **Dust:** The abrasive effect of dust can damage and wear away surfaces of furniture and fabrics and dull

areas it settles upon. To remove, vacuum, sweep or use a dry or damp cloth.

2. **Bonded Dust:** Dust that is oily or has absorbed moisture in the air becomes bonded to the surface. The soil becomes deeper and the bond firmer, the longer it remains.

3. **Grease and Oils:** Grease and oils are spilled or deposited on surfaces.

4. **Chemical Deposits:** Hard water and gases or vapors can create chemical soil deposits.

Know What the Manufacturer Recommends

Consult and follow the manufacturer's directions for cleaning. This will reduce the potential for product damage and help protect the warranty. Use the cleaning instructions in this bulletin to supplement the manufacturer's directions. **Pretest products and methods in an inconspicuous spot to avoid damage to the item.**

Know the Types of Cleaning Products

Buying home cleaning products can be confusing! Labels and ads are filled with numerous claims and complex chemical terms.

To choose the best product for the job, you should know the common ingredients in each and be able to compare their performance and safety. Common ingredients include abrasives, acids, alkalies, bleaches, detergents, sanitizers, and solvents. Knowing what they do and examples of each helps in selecting the cleaning product suited to the material and the type of soil to be removed.



Abrasives: Abrasives wear off dirt and grime when rubbed on the surface. The cleaning action is mechanical. Abrasives are available in degrees of fineness. Normally, the larger the particles, the harsher the cleaner. Chemical action cleaners have replaced these products for some cleaning jobs.

Regular use of abrasives can scratch surfaces. When surfaces are dull and rough they soil faster and stain deeper. Abrasives can damage plastics and glass as well as painted, plated and highly polished metal furnishings.

Fine abrasives include precipitated chalk or powdered whiting (calcium carbonate), rottenstone and iron oxide (jeweler's rouge). Medium and coarse abrasives include silica, powdered feldspar, quartz and pumice. Plastic and nylon meshes and steel wool are also considered abrasives.

Acids: Acids vary from weak to strong. Check labels for potential hazards and follow directions. Weak acids used in cleaning include vinegar, lemon juice, and cream of tartar. These acids are sometimes used to remove discolorations from metal, and mineral deposits from water on glass items.

Cleaners that contain strong acids may be labeled with ingredients such as oxalic, hydrochloric or sulfuric acid, or sodium bisulfate.

Alkalies: Alkalies remove heavy accumulations of dirt with little rubbing and work well to remove grease and oil.

Baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) is a mild alkali. Moderate alkalies include household ammonia, sudsy ammonia which has soap or detergent added, and borax. Stronger alkalies include trisodium phosphate (TSP) and washing soda (Sal soda or sodium carbonate).

Trisodium phosphate, sodium carbonate and ammonium compounds are commonly found in cleaners such as glass or all-purpose cleaners.

Most alkalies are toxic, some are corrosive and others irritate the skin and eyes. Do not mix ammonia with other cleaners.

Alkalies can darken aluminum and take oil from oil-based paints, making them crack and peel. Prevent damage to surfaces by using mild alkaline solutions and rinsing well.

Bleaches: Bleaches used in home cleaning products are generally the chlorine type. A product that contains bleach may indicate on the label "contains bleach", "bleaches" or "chlorinated". Sodium hypochlorite may be listed as an ingredient. Liquid chlorine bleach reacts with strongly acidic products to form an irritating and dangerous gas. Using bleach and ammonia together forms dangerous chemical compounds. Do not mix these products.

Detergents and Soaps: Detergents loosen dirt and can help remove oily dirt. The term "detergent" includes both soaps and synthetic detergents. However, the word detergent has come to refer to synthetic detergents only. Very few brands of true soaps are sold. Soap works best in soft water, while synthetic detergents work well in hard or soft water. Synthetic detergents generally do not leave a film after their use. Soaps may leave a film -

especially in hard water.

Soap and detergent cleaning agents can be classified as mild or heavy-duty cleaners. Typical mild or light-duty detergents include liquid detergents used for hand dishwashing. A wide selection of heavy-duty detergents are available.

Sanitizers: Sanitizers (or disinfectants) can kill bacteria and thereby reduce odors caused by bacteria. Common sanitizers are liquid chlorine bleach, pine oil, phenolic, and quaternary sanitizers. Read labels to see which product is suited to the material you are cleaning. Use only as directed. Do not mix with other products unless specifically stated.

Solvents: Spirit or man-made solvents remove oily dirt and are used for degreasing. They include such chemicals as alcohol, benzene, acetone, naphtha, paint thinners (mineral spirits), turpentine, kerosene, and dry cleaning solvents. Dry cleaning solvents often contain perchloroethylene, trichlorethane, or trichlorethylene.

Many waxes, polishes, and cleaners for furniture and some all-purpose cleaners and sanitizers contain solvents.

Most solvents are flammable and must be kept away from heat, sparks, and open flames. **Read labels and use caution.**

METALS

Keep metal furnishings clean and free from dust. Use a clean soft dust cloth or the vacuum cleaner dusting attachment. For finger prints and surface soil, wash with mild, warm suds; rinse, and wipe completely dry with a soft cloth. Most metals do not need to be waxed.

To clean metals treated with lacquer or plastic finishes for tarnish protection, use a damp cloth or sponge and wipe dry with a soft cloth.

Be cautious in using household abrasives to polish metals in your home. Abrasive materials such as steel wool, scouring pads, metal brushes, and strong, grainy cleaning compounds will scratch and mar highly polished metal surfaces. Avoid using such abrasives on metals. Some people prefer preserving the patina.

Commercial cleaners are made for specific metals; check labels and follow directions.

Test any cleaning product or method in an inconspicuous spot before proceeding.



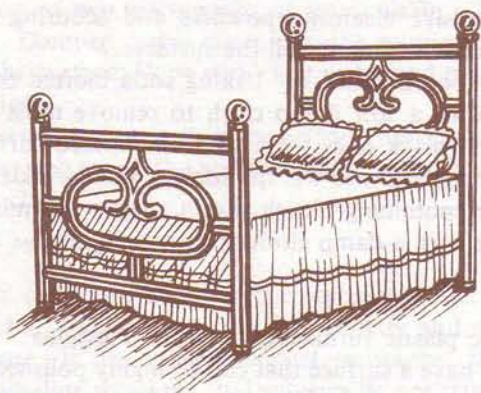
Aluminum

Some furniture parts are made of aluminum. Aluminum usually requires only dusting and occasional wiping with a soft, damp cloth.

If necessary, wash with warm, soapy water, rinse, and dry with a soft cloth. Use a mild soap. Do not use harsh abrasive, cleansing powders. If any materials have hardened on aluminum, a soft damp cloth dipped in fine whiting can be used to gently rub away the dirt. Then wash, rinse and dry.

Alkaline substances such as ammonia, strong soaps and detergents and baking soda will cause discoloration in aluminum and can cause pitting. If alkalies have already caused discoloration, use a little cream of tartar or vinegar in hot water on the stain. Be persistent; it may take time.

Special aluminum cleaners and polishes are also available. Anodized aluminum should only be cleaned with water and mild soap or detergent.



Brass and Copper

Brass and copper with a protective coating (lacquer, synthetic finish or tung oil) should be dusted regularly and occasionally washed in warm soapy water. Rinse with warm water and dry thoroughly. Lacquered items should never be polished, soaked in water, or washed in hot water. These procedures can damage the lacquer coating.

Remove dirt and oil from **unlacquered brass and copper** with alcohol, mineral spirits or a mild detergent solution.

Brass and copper without a coating will tarnish (oxidize). There are several ways to clean and polish brass and copper. Test any cleaner to be sure you get the effect you want. Some cleaning methods remove the mellowness of antique brass. This mellowness or patina is preferred by some. Wash old antique items in warm soapy water to remove grime. Rinse and dry. Moisten a soft cloth with boiled linseed oil or mineral oil and rub on the surface until all dirt is removed. Polish with a soft cloth.

Remove oxidation by polishing with two parts denatured alcohol, two parts distilled water, and fine powdered whiting (precipitated chalk) mixed to a paste. Rub it on the surface and allow it to dry. Polish off the white

film. A paste of rottenstone and mineral oil may be substituted. Be careful of over polishing plated items. Rinse off all residue of cleaner and oil.

Avoid harsh abrasives such as coarse steel wool. Some cleaners contain acids or chlorides (salt) which can start new corrosion. The home remedy of using table salt moistened with lemon juice or vinegar is not encouraged because it may affect future cleaning and speed reoxidation due to chlorides left behind. Residue of cleaners containing ammonia also can cause corrosion. Remove all traces of these cleaners.



Chromium

Some furnishings are chromium plated. These items need gentle care as chrome is easily scratched. Usually the only care required is rubbing with a damp cloth, followed by polishing with a dry, soft cloth. Sticky chromium usually responds to washing with detergent and water, or using a solution of water conditioner and water.

For gummy buildup, use a liquid household detergent or baking soda on a damp cloth, or use a paste made from a water conditioner product and water. Avoid using abrasive household cleaners and metal polishes; they will scratch chromium finishes. Special chromium cleaners are available.

Pewter

Most pewter made today is lead-free and does not darken as antique pewter does. Care of uncoated lead-free pewter is simple. Wash in hot, soapy water; rinse and dry. Polish by rubbing in one direction.

When cleaning pewter containing lead, avoid using harsh polishes or abrasive powders. Do not overclean antique pewter. Clean brightly finished leaded pewter with a thin paste made by mixing fine powdered whiting or fuller's earth and denatured alcohol. Rub the paste in one direction. When clean, wash in hot soapy water, rinse and dry. Check to see that mild abrasives do not scratch the pewter. Pewter polishes are available.

For leaded pewter with a dull finish, clean with a paste of fine powdered pumice or rottenstone and mineral oil. Dip a soft cloth into the paste and rub over pewter. Rub in one direction. When clean, wash in hot, soapy water; rinse and dry.



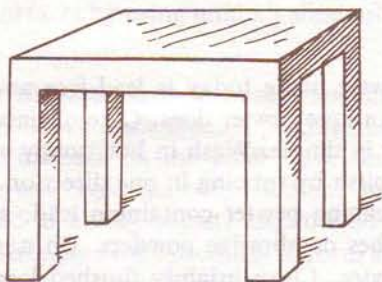
Stainless Steel

Some parts of contemporary furniture have stainless steel finishes. Stainless steel, when properly cared for, requires only dusting and occasional wiping with a soft, damp cloth. When necessary, wash with hot, soapy water (use a mild soap or detergent). Rinse immediately and dry with a soft cloth removing all detergent residue. Avoid strong alkalis and abrasives. For heavy soil and dirt hardened on the surface, dip a soft, dampened cloth into fine whiting (a very mild abrasive) and rub dirt away carefully. Then wash, rinse and dry. Or use a stainless steel cleaner.

Tin

Tin ware has a thin coating of tin over iron or steel. Many accessories and old utensils, such as candle molds, may be found worn and corroded. Tin can be cleaned and waxed for decorative purposes. Wash tin in hot, soapy water, rinse well and dry thoroughly to prevent rust. Rub on a thin layer of hard paste wax, then buff off.

The rust seen on tin is usually the result of the wearing away of the tin layer and exposure of the iron or steel. Tin is stable, but soft. Use fine polishes such as a silver polish to brighten if desired. Heavy polishing can wear away old tin coatings.



PLASTICS

Furniture and accessories today may be made entirely of plastic or plastic laminates applied to hard wear areas or it may be composed of plastic components such as decorative moldings.

Many different types of plastic are used in furnishings and accessories. Often it is difficult to determine if the material is wood or plastic, or what type of plastic it is.

Read labels carefully. Manufacturers use different formulations for the same basic materials and it is difficult to generalize about plastics.

Typical types of plastics include acrylics, fiberglass, and polyester.

Most plastics can be cleaned with water and a mild detergent such as a hand dishwashing detergent; rinsed, and wiped dry. Avoid abrasives, and stain-removing spray solvents used for the laundry. Solvents can damage some plastics. Avoid cleaners labeled "Not safe for plastics". The alkalinity of these products can cause opaque streaking or damage to some plastics. Some glass cleaners may cause permanent hazing on plastic surfaces such as clock faces, etc. Read cleaning product labels to be sure they are safe for plastics.

Laminated plastics often are used for table tops and other surfaces. Clean them by wiping the surface with a cloth or sponge dampened with a mild detergent and water solution or use a commercial plastic laminate cleaner. Rinse and dry. Polish with a dry cloth. Avoid using abrasive cleansing powders and scouring pads which can scratch and dull the surface.

For stubborn spots, try baking soda blotted on the surface with a soft damp cloth to remove most dark stains and black lines from white laminated surfaces. Another method is to wet the surface and sprinkle with a cleaner containing bleach. Let it soak a few minutes and rinse with a damp cloth or sponge lightly.

Acrylic

Acrylic plastic furnishings such as PlexiglasTM and LuciteTM have a surface that can be highly polished and is resistant to many stains.

Wash with a mild soap or detergent and warm water solution. Use a soft cloth that is totally free of grit. Rinse with clear warm water and blot dry with a soft, clean material. Paper towels may scratch.

For dusting, use a damp cloth or chamois, wiping gently. The damp cloth cuts down on the friction of rubbing.

Acrylics have good resistance to many chemicals including mild alkalis, weak ammonia solutions and dilute acids. However they are attacked by solvents such as benzene, lacquer thinners, some alcohols and others.

Some manufacturers of acrylic items warn against the use of window cleaning fluids, scouring compounds, and strong solvents such as alcohol, acetone, or some dry cleaning fluids. Some window cleaner compounds can cloud or roughen acrylic surfaces.

To protect surfaces, use a good grade automobile paste wax, not a cleaner-wax. Some waxes may contain agents such as petroleum products harmful to the surface of the acrylic. Avoid using spray waxes as they may contain agents harmful to acrylics.

Clean areas spotted by rust, fruit juice, permanent ink or dyes with an auto cleaner wax. Test first for potential damage. Rub with the grain or length of the pattern. A circular motion can cause swirl marks.

Fiberglass

Furniture made of molded fiberglass may be coated with polyurethane, polyester gel or acrylic resins to make a hard, stain-resistant surface.

Clean fiberglass carefully since its surface is easily worn away by abrasives and some chemicals. Use a commercial fiberglass cleaner, scrubbing foam, or mild detergent and water solution. Mild alkalie cleaners in warm water also can be used. Avoid abrasives. To restore its shine, use an automobile wax. Repair cracks and chips with a commercial fiberglass repair kit.

Polyester

Some furniture has a polyester-resin finish that looks like lacquer but is less fragile. This high-gloss shiny synthetic coating does not scratch or soil easily, but needs regular cleaning to maintain its gloss. It has good chemical resistance to weak acids and weak alkalies.

For stubborn soil, clean with a good glass cleaner or a solution of two tablespoons of ammonia in a quart of water. Dampen a soft cloth with the solution and rub over the surface. Wipe with clear water and buff with a soft cloth.

Cover scratches with a good automobile wax. Use a cotton swab to rub the wax into the scratch. Polish with a soft cloth.

Other Plastics

ABS (acrylonitrile-butadiene styrene) plastic is used in chairs, molded parts, decorative trim and modular furniture. It has good chemical resistance. It resists most alkaline solutions, and solvents do not attack ABS as readily as some plastics. Clean with mild to moderate alkalies.

Nylon, used in molded or solid furniture parts, is resistant to abrasion and most chemicals, including some solvents. It can be washed with sudsy water.

Polyethylene, used in decorative furniture parts, is resistant to chemicals, food acids, household solvents and short contact with many commercial cleaning fluids.

Polyvinyl chloride (vinyl) is used in casual furniture, frames, laminates, drawers, and waterbags for beds. It has good resistance to common chemicals and abrasion. Plasticizers tend to migrate out if the material is exposed to body oils, heat, abrasives, and some chemicals. Most vinyls are attacked by chlorinated solvents (chlorine) and acetone.

Polystyrene is used in wood-grained furniture parts and clock faces. Dry cleaning fluids, acetone, and lemon oil can damage it. Polystyrene is sensitive to solvents.

Plastic Shower Curtains

Most plastic shower curtains can be cleaned by washing in the washing machine on gentle cycle or by hand in warm, sudsy water. If using the machine,

agitate for two or three minutes, rinse with warm water and spin on a gentle cycle. A warm water rinse will help assure wrinkle free drying. Shake out excess water and hang to dry.

Mildew may be removed by wiping with a solution of household chlorine bleach (3/4 cup per gallon of water) before washing curtains. Test first.

CLEANING OTHER MATERIALS IN YOUR HOME



Glass and Mirrors

Commercial window and glass cleaners are available for use on glass table tops and mirror surfaces. These often contain surfactants to loosen and suspend oils, and solvents to dissolve oils. Some products contain mild alkalies such as ammonia.

A variety of homemade solutions also work well for cleaning glass surfaces. Try clear water; water with a little mild detergent; one quart water and one tablespoon household ammonia; one quart warm water and one tablespoon vinegar; or one quart warm water and three tablespoons denatured alcohol. Do not drip cleaning solutions on wood or other materials.

Do not use soap because it may leave streaks.

Wring out a cloth, sponge or chamois until it is almost dry before wiping the glass surface. Dry with a soft cloth or chamois. Avoid washing glass in direct sunlight because it tends to streak and is more difficult to clean.

Avoid using cloths laundered with a fabric softener or antistatic fabric conditioner. The ingredients can be extracted by the glass cleaner and redeposited onto the glass surface causing smudging.

Glass and mirrors scratch easily so always wash dusty glass with a wet cloth. A dry cloth can scratch glass.

Valuable framed mirrors should be **cleaned very carefully**. Dust the frames and mirror. Wipe away accumulated dust with a soft cloth moistened with a window cleaner or a few drops of ammonia. Be careful of touching the frame with these products because they could damage gold-leaf or fine wood frames.

The silver on a mirror is normally on the back surface, is not very strong, and can be easily scratched or defaced. **Do not allow cleaners to drip or contact the back side.** Sometimes mirror backings are coated with shellac to protect them.

Ivory

Ivory piano keys and decorative ivory accessories naturally yellow with age. Ivory is sensitive to light. Keep ivory out of direct sun, and in fairly constant temperatures (70 °F) and humidity (50%).

Clean ivory accessories by dusting. Washing or submerging in water generally is not recommended because ivory absorbs moisture. If cleaning is necessary, wipe with mild detergent and water, rinse and dry thoroughly.

Wipe ivory piano keys with a clean, slightly damp cloth, the long way of the key. Dry at once. When necessary, wipe them with a cloth barely dampened with a detergent solution. Then wipe them with another cloth dampened with water; dry at once. To avoid damage to keys, clean key to key. Do not let liquids drip between keys.



Marble

Rubbing marble with a cloth has a tendency to rub the dirt into the porous surface of the marble. Use a vacuum cleaner, feather duster, or soft brush to remove dust.

Most liquids can penetrate below the surface and carry the soil into the marble.

If more thorough cleaning is needed, use water (distilled water preferred) with a small amount of mild detergent and a few drops of ammonia (mild alkali). Do not use regularly. Wet the marble first with clear water to prevent the detergent solution from being easily absorbed.

Wash a small area at a time with a dampened soft cloth, soft brush, or wad of cotton to avoid scratching the marble. Wipe with water, immediately dry the area and lay a towel over it to absorb moisture.

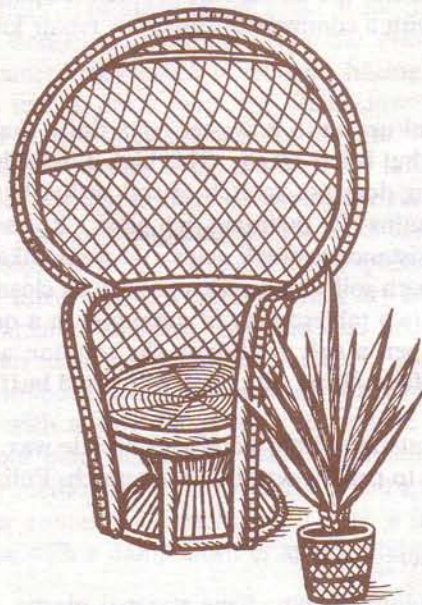
Commercial marble cleaners are soap-free and will not form an undesirable residue or scum build up.

Spilled acids such as vinegar, lemon juice, or carbonated drinks, should be immediately washed away with a dilute solution of ammonia and water to neutralize the acid. Avoid even the mildest acids in cleaning marble. Acids tend to eat away at the marble and make it more porous. Vinegar and lemon juice are not recommended as cleaners as they are acidic and may damage the marble.

Avoid using a strong ammonia solution (alkali) or other strong alkali material such as a strong detergent as they may discolor the marble and cause yellowing.

Oil and grease stains on marble can be removed with a solvent such as a dry cleaning fluid. Remove the solvent as soon as possible before it penetrates deeper into the marble. Use a white blotter soaked in solvent.

Synthetic marble is cleaned with hot, soapy water. Remove stains and scratches with baking soda or dishwashing detergent. To restore shine, rub with a commercial rubbing compound made especially for synthetic marble.



Wicker, Reed, Cane, and Bamboo

True wicker is woven of willow, but the word is generally used to describe a construction technique rather than a material. Wicker furnishings may be made of rattan, cane, reed, willow, fiber, and various grasses such as sea grass. Rattan is from a variety of palms similar to vines. Reed is the inner portion of rattan and cane is the outer bark sliced off. Bamboo resembles rattan but is hollow and has joints.

Routine cleaning of wicker is done with a vacuum and soft brush attachment or with a long-haired, soft brush. For a more thorough cleaning, use a soft brush and a solution of warm water and mild detergent. Use a tooth brush for places which are difficult to reach.

Wicker of reed and willow (unfinished or painted) should periodically be wiped with a soft wet cloth. Wash unfinished reed and willow pieces that become brittle with a fine spray. Do not overwet. Dry quickly.

Wicker of twisted paper fiber or sea grass should not be hosed because it will weaken it. Use a damp cloth.

Wicker with a coating of varnish, lacquer, paint or vinyl should be cleaned as painted wood furniture would be. Wipe with a damp cloth. Wetting the wicker more thoroughly can lead to deterioration and painted surfaces may peel or crack. Much of this type of wicker is not intended for outdoor use.

SPECIAL CLEANING TIPS

Bedding



Pillow Care

Protect pillows from soil. A ticking cover will help protect the ticking and filler.

Occasionally place feather and down pillows in the dryer on low heat for ten minutes to remove humidity and help keep them resilient and fresh. Polyester fiber-fill pillows may also be freshened in the dryer on low heat. Foam rubber pillows should not be placed in the dryer.

Follow the manufacturers' cleaning directions. If none are present, the following guidelines may be helpful. Although down-filled products are hand or machine washable, some manufacturers recommend dry-cleaning.

If dry-cleaning down, select a reliable drycleaner with experience in cleaning down. Afterward, thoroughly air bedding products to dispel lingering fumes from the cleaning agent.

Pillows filled with down, feathers or polyester fiber-fill may be washed in the washer on the gentle cycle with warm water and a mild detergent. Check the ticking to be sure it is strong and that the seams are firmly sewn. Wash no more than two pillows at a time. Fill washer, then submerge pillows and wash four to eight minutes. Rinse in warm water three times to be sure that all detergent is removed. **Thoroughly dry pillows** in the dryer at low heat on the gentle cycle. This may take three to six hours for down; less for polyester. Placing a tennis shoe or a few tennis balls in the dryer will help fluff feather pillows. Polyester fillings may need to be pulled apart to fluff after drying. Some manufacturers recommend high temperatures for drying polyester pillows. Consult the label.

Foam pillows can be washed by hand if cleaning is necessary. Remove the cover and wash it separately. Place the pillow in warm, mild detergent suds and squeeze the suds through thoroughly. Rinse several times, removing all detergent residue. Blot well with a towel. Dry flat at room temperatures, reversing positions occasionally. Drying may take several days. Do not use a dryer because of the danger of combustion.

Electric Blankets

Electric blankets should never be dry-cleaned because solvents may damage the wiring. Washing is recommended by most manufacturers. Check the label.

If directions are not present, machine wash for one to five minutes. Dissolve detergent in the warm water be-

fore placing the blanket in the washer. Avoid using bleach. Evenly distribute the blanket in the washing machine. Use a cold water rinse and gentle spin cycle.

Hand wash an electric blanket by soaking it for 15 minutes in detergent and lukewarm water. Squeeze the suds through the blanket. Rinse in cool water at least twice.

Tumble dry for ten minutes at medium temperature. To prevent shrinkage or damage to the thermostat, most manufacturers suggest the blanket finish drying by draping it over two parallel clothes lines or by drying it flat.

Blankets

Most cotton and synthetic blankets also can be washed or dry-cleaned. Washing may result in more shrinkage than dry-cleaning. Follow label directions. Some wool blankets can be washed — check directions. Polyurethane foam should be washed as you would a wool blanket in cool temperatures with little or no agitation. Higher temperatures and agitation can cause polyurethane blankets to become "bald" and shrink.

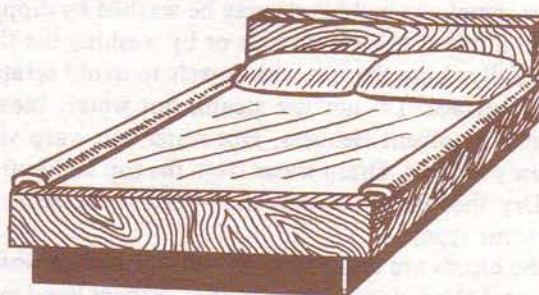
To launder blankets, fill washer with warm water. Add detergent and dissolve by agitation if needed. Add blankets, let soak for 10 to 15 minutes, then agitate for one to two minutes. Rinse twice in cool water, briefly agitating. Dry a synthetic fiber blanket in the dryer at low temperatures. Remove as soon as dry.

Mattress Care

Mattresses should be covered with a well-fitting mattress pad which can be laundered frequently.

Innerspring and foam mattresses should be aired routinely. Ends and sides of innerspring mattresses should be turned about every six months; the foundation at least once a year. New mattresses should be turned more frequently for the first six months. Mattresses and box springs occasionally should be vacuumed; use low suction.

Stains should be removed promptly. A disinfecting or deodorizing spray is recommended for odor problems. Check product labels for appropriate use on fabrics and safety suggestions. Persons with allergies should use caution.



Waterbed

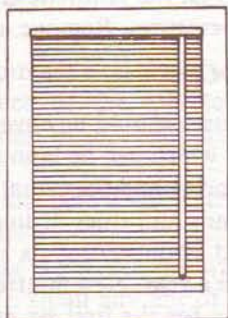
Waterbed bladders should be wiped clean occasionally. The polyvinyl chloride (vinyl) used for waterbed

mattresses and liners is softened and made flexible with plasticizers. The plasticizers tend to migrate or release from plastic over time. This process is encouraged by heat, abrasive cleaners, improper additives such as chlorine bleach, or contact with body oils. Hardening or damage to the vinyl can occur. Use a mattress pad to protect the vinyl. Manufacturers often recommend using a vinyl cleaner formulated for waterbed mattresses. If none is available, clean the vinyl with a mild detergent and water solution. Remove all residue with a clean damp cloth dipped in water. Wipe dry.

Most waterbed manufacturers recommend that chemicals be added once or twice yearly to keep the water from becoming stale. Bacteria and fungi thrive in dark warm water. They cause an unpleasant odor and will make the vinyl deteriorate more rapidly. A variety of waterbed conditioners are available. Conditioners maintain water freshness by destroying microorganisms that thrive in this environment. They also hold minerals in suspension in the water and keep the vinyl from becoming dry and brittle.

Unless specified in writing by the mattress manufacturer, consumers should not use chlorine bleaches as waterbed conditioners. Chlorine bleach slowly oxidizes the plasticizers and other vinyl components.

Shades and Blinds



Horizontal Blinds

Dust horizontal blinds regularly with dusting mitts or clean, absorbent gloves (one in each hand) or a horizontal blind brush which cleans several blinds at once. Another method would be to tilt blinds flat and vacuum with a dusting brush attachment while holding the blinds steady.

Most metal or vinyl blinds may be washed by dipping them in a tub of lukewarm suds or by washing the slats individually. Line the tub with towels to avoid scratching the surface. Do not use steam, hot water, bleach, abrasive or solvent cleaners. Hot water can warp vinyl window products. Drain water from the top and bottom rail. Dry thoroughly. Tapes may need to be removed from some types.

If the blinds are natural wood, use a cleaning wax or horizontal blind cleaner. A pair of absorbent hand mitts works well to apply wax. Wax cleaning leaves a finish that helps resist soil.

Plastic tapes can be wiped with a cloth wrung out in mild suds and rinsed with a cloth wrung out in water.

Fabric tapes can be cleaned with dry-cleaning fluid or washed in warm sudsy water. If you wash the cloth tapes, measure before washing and stretch to the correct length during drying.

Wipe each pull cord with a folded sponge or cloth — first with suds and then with clean water.

Pleated Shades

Pleated shades may be made of polyester or fiberglass. Some have a metalized aluminum backing. Follow manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning. Generally they can be dusted with a vacuum (low suction) with a soft brush attachment, soft rag, or feather duster. For spots, use a cloth barely dampened with a mild detergent and water solution or upholstery shampoo. Test first. Do not use steam, hot water, bleach, or any abrasive- or solvent-based cleaner.

Vertical Blinds

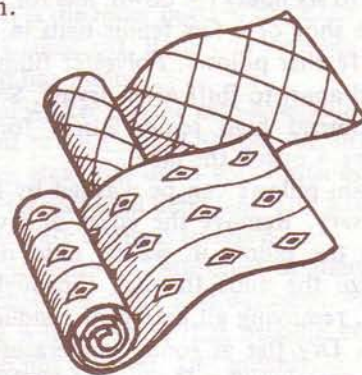
Most vertical blinds can be dusted with a soft rag, feather duster, or vacuumed (low suction) with a soft brush attachment. For spots, use a cloth barely dampened with a mild detergent and water solution or upholstery shampoo. Test first.

Window Shades

Washable window shades can be cleaned by unrolling them on a clean flat surface and scrubbing with a brush or cloth wrung out in warm, sudsy water. Do not overwet the shade. Turn over and wash the other side. Dry thoroughly before rerolling.

Nonwashable shades can be cleaned by vacuuming. To remove soil, gently rub with an art gum eraser or a dough-type cleaner. A cloth barely dampened with a mild detergent-water solution also can be used.

Worn or stained shades can be turned, tacking the worn bottom to the top and turning a hem on the top to make a new bottom.



Wall Coverings

Wall coverings may include paper, plastic or fabric and resin-coated or resin-impregnated materials.

Some of these coverings may be washable; others may not. Follow the manufacturer's directions. If you are not sure, test for washability on an inconspicuous area. Make sure the coverings are not loosened or the colors do not bleed in washing.

Washable wall coverings may include vinyls and some

vinyl-coated coverings. To wash, squeeze out a sponge in a solution of mild detergent and cool water. Work from the bottom of the wall up. Use as little water as possible. Wash a small area at a time, overlapping each area. Do not rub briskly, but work gently to avoid wearing away the covering. Rinse with clean, lukewarm water and a clean sponge. Blot dry with a clean, soft cloth. Special liquid wall covering cleaners also are available.

Nonwashable wall coverings such as non-coated papers can be cleaned by rubbing gently in one direction with an art gum eraser, fresh bread, pipe clay, or a dough-type wallpaper cleaner.

Dough cleaners rolled over the wall surface pick up dust and greasy soil. Knead or turn the dough so that a clean surface touches the wall. Wipe the surface with a clean cloth when done. Check to see if the cleaner leaves deposits. Grass cloth or string cloth are more difficult to clean.

Spots on Wall Coverings

Treat spots before they have time to penetrate.

If a grease spot is fresh, blot immediately with a clean paper towel or facial tissue. Hold the absorbent paper over the spot and press with a warm iron. If a stain remains, apply a paste of nonflammable dry-cleaning solvent and an absorbent powder such as fuller's earth for dark surfaces or talcum powder or cornstarch for light surfaces. Let the paste dry, then brush off the powder.

Sometimes crayon marks can be removed by sponging with a nonflammable dry-cleaning solvent. Do not rub. Follow safety precautions. An application of rubber cement adhesive also may remove crayon. Let the adhesive dry and then rub gently. An art gum eraser also may be used for removing crayon and pencil marks and smudges. Rub gently. Test products first.

Some wall coverings, labeled as "scrubbable", may withstand the strong cleaning agents available for household cleaning. Test first on a scrap of wallpaper or in an inconspicuous spot.

WHERE TO FIND IT

Following is a list of cleaning supplies mentioned in this bulletin, and where they may be found:

Product	Source
Acetone	Drug store, lumberyard
Ammonia	Grocery store
Art gum eraser	Art store
Denatured alcohol	Hardware, paint stores, lumberyards
Dry Cleaning Solvent (eg. Carbona®, Energine®, Solve Oil® among others)	Grocery store, drug store
Fuller's earth	Drug or hardware store
Mineral oil	Drug store
Pipe clay	Drug store
Powdered whiting (calcium carbonate or precipitated chalk)	Art or paint store, drug or jewelry store, or dental supply, hardware store
Pumice powder	Lumberyard, paint or hardware store
Rottenstone	Lumberyard, paint or hardware store
Trisodium phosphate	Hardware store, lumberyard
Vinyl cleaner	Furniture, waterbed stores, hardware store
Wallpaper cleaner	Hardware or wallcovering stores
Washing soda	Grocery store
Water conditioner	Grocery store
Waterbed conditioner	Waterbed stores

No endorsement of products mentioned is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products or businesses not mentioned.

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