

Adhesive marks

Remove these with methylated spirits.

Ants

Black pepper, baby powder or Borax sprinkled under rugs will deter ants.

Bird droppings

If fresh, wash with warm water. If dried, scrape off excess with a mix of mild detergent and water, adding a few drops of ammonia to remove any stains.

Carpet

Where carpet has been flattened by heavy furniture, place ice cubes on the area and the carpet will lift as the ice melts. To deodorise carpet, sprinkle generously with baking soda before vacuuming.

Carpet stains

Wine

If just spilt, soda water can be used with a paper towel. If it has been there for some time, dampen the spot and apply Borax. Leave Borax on the stain until it is dry then vacuum.

Fruit juice

Make a solution with one teaspoon of Borax and ½ litre of warm water to sponge over the area.

Dog urine

Sponge with white vinegar and spray carpet with deodoriser e.g. Febreze.

Lipstick

Dab the spot with eucalyptus.

Oil

If just spilt, put talcum powder on the spot to absorb oil, then sponge with eucalyptus.

Excreta and vomit

Remove solid matter and mop up excess moisture. Sponge with white vinegar or soda water. Add a few drops of 'Nilodor' to offset the smell.

Drains

Pour a small amount of bleach down the sink to bring drains up nice and bright.

Doors

A damp cloth is normally sufficient to clean doors, however, if they are heavily marked use a detergent solution. Do not use a scouring pad.

Eaves

Use a garden hose and a stiff broom to remove cobwebs, dirt and dust.

Engine Oil

Use kitty litter to soak up engine oil from driveways

Flies

Keep crushed mint on the kitchen bench to deter flies from entering the kitchen, or leave some bay leaves on your windowsills. Mint also deters fleas.

Grouting

For coloured grouting use Epsom salts and a soft brush to clean off residue. For white grouting use bleach with a soft brush to remove residue.

Guttering

Gutters should be cleaned out regularly, especially prior to winter to avoid damage.

Hairspray

To remove hairspray marks from mirrors, rub with a soft cloth with methylated spirits.

Insects and pests

Sprinkle Borax powder around skirting boards or appliances to repel unwanted guests. Warning: Borax can be toxic to children and pets so use with caution.

Labels

Sticky labels can be removed by rubbing with eucalyptus, tea tree oil, acetone or Brasso.

Laminex

Most stains and marks can be removed by rubbing with toothpaste on a soft cloth.

Mirrors

To prevent bathroom mirrors from steaming up, rub the mirror with a cloth dipped in glycerine and polish off with a soft cloth.

Oil on concrete

Mix six parts of kerosene to one part detergent. Leave on the area for approximately five minutes then hose off.

Oven

A damp cloth dipped in baking soda will remove grease and stains from the glass. To clean the oven, warm for 15 minutes, turn off and place full strength ammonia in a saucer on the top shelf and a pan of boiling water on the bottom shelf. Leave overnight with the door closed. The next morning open the door for 30 minutes (avoid the fumes), and wash off grease with detergent and hot water. Orange peel heated in the oven will remove any lingering smells. Cloudy ammonia is good for use on oven racks, trays and rangehood filters. Simply soak overnight and wipe clean. Line the griller tray and under elements on electric cook-tops with aluminium foil to catch food scraps and drips then remove and replace it when it's dirty.

Picture hooks

Contact your property manager before using any hooks at all.

Quarry tiles

If glazed, wipe with kerosene on a soft dry cloth. If unglazed, mop with an equal mix of linseed oil and turpentine.

Rust

To remove rust from sinks and wash-tubs, cut a lemon in half, dip the raw edge in salt and rub over the rusty area, then rinse with cold water. Alternatively, rub vinegar on a cloth and clean the area, then rinse with cold water.

Sand

Sand is good for absorbing spills and oils on outside areas.

Toilets

To clean stains from the toilet bowl, squirt with household bleach and leave overnight. The lid should be removed regularly to avoid build up under the seat. Remove the lid by loosening the two wing nuts at the back of the bowl and slide off.

Unknown stains

For unknown stains the safest ingredient to use is eucalyptus. Just dab it on the affected area.

Vaseline

Vaseline is good for use on door hinges to stop doors squeaking.

Walls

Walls should be washed down with warm soapy water and not spot-cleaned. A new or clean squeeze mop is good to clean walls with.

Windows

To clean windows add ½ cup of methylated spirits to a bucket of water.

Rubber stains

Rubber stains can be removed from kitchen floors with tea tree oil.

Any questions?

Please call your local Proppy Manager