



# Household Cleaning

## Walls, Ceilings and Woodwork

### Supplies Needed

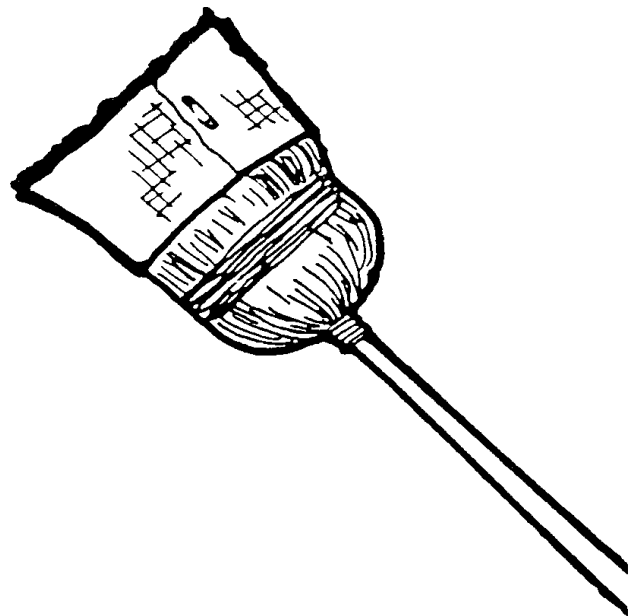
- Broom
- Mop
- Cloth or sponge
- Two buckets of warm water—one for washing and one for rinsing
- Soap, detergent or bleach (1 1/2 cups of bleach added to 2 gallons of water may be used to remove mildew stains)

**Warning:** Do not mix bleach with any other cleaning product. This may produce poisonous fumes that are deadly.

- Scouring pad
- Clean cloths for washing, rinsing and drying
- A stepladder or strong chair (a stepladder may be safer)

### Get Ready

1. Protect furniture by moving it or covering it.
2. Brush down all spider webs. Use a dry sponge, mop or wrap a cloth around a broom and fasten it so it won't come off. Be careful not to streak the walls.



3. Dust the ceiling with the mop or covered broom.
4. Clean any vents in the ceilings.
5. Dust the walls from top to bottom.
6. Place your buckets of water on newspaper to soak up spills and prevent falls. Add liquid detergent to one bucket and keep the other one full of clear water.
7. Before you start washing walls, clean a small spot with a soapy cloth to make sure the paint is washable and will not run.



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## Do the Job

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1. Wash walls from bottom to top, cleaning overlapping areas with circular motion. Water running down over dirty walls will streak them.
2. Change water when it is dirty.
3. Wash all of the wall, one part at a time. Rinse the cleaning agent off of each section before it dries.

4. Wash the doors, window frames and baseboards.
5. Rinse the doors, window frames and baseboards with clean water. Always work from the bottom to the top so woodwork won't streak.
6. Since the weather can be humid in Tennessee, dry the woodwork with a cloth.

**Tip:** There are special cleaners you can use on wood paneling to help preserve the finish.

**Keep all cleaning products away from young children.**

*This factsheet was originally developed by Nayda I. Torres, Associate Professor, Family and Consumer Economics, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. The material has been adapted for use in Tennessee by Martha Keel, Associate Professor, Family and Consumer Sciences – Housing and Environmental Health.*

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