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SP459-E Household Cleaning - The Bathroom

The University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service

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Household Cleaning

The Bathroom

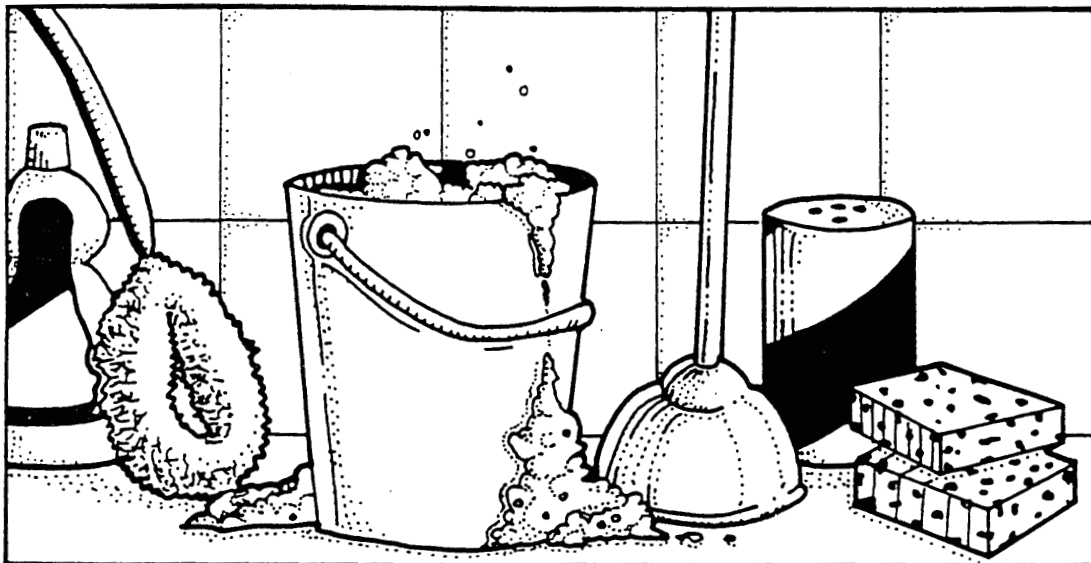
Supplies Needed

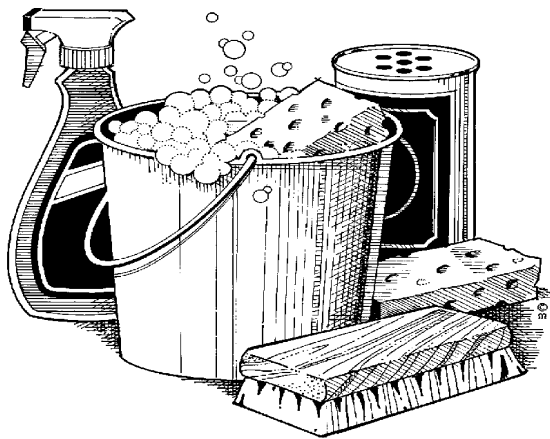
- Cloth or sponge
- Household cleanser
- Chlorine bleach
- Drain cleaner
- Plumber's friend (plunger)
- Toilet bowl brush
- Water conditioner

Everyone can help keep the bathroom clean and free of plumbing problems by doing these things daily:

- Turn off the faucets completely.
- Rinse out and wipe the sink.
- Hang up towels and washcloths.
- Rinse the bathtub and remove hair from the drain.
- Never put any kind of paper but toilet paper in the toilet.

Warning: Never leave cleaning solutions standing in the sink or toilet. Pets and young children may be accidentally poisoned.





Clean the Sink, Faucets, Tub and Shower

1. Wash the entire area by wetting the surface, sprinkling the all-purpose cleaner onto the surface and letting it stand for a couple of minutes.
2. Rub surface with a sponge or a cloth.
3. Rinse with clear water.
4. Remove stains on grout with a solution of 3/4 cup of household bleach mixed with 1 gallon of water. Rinse.
5. If drains are slow, remove the drain top every month or so and take out the excess hair and sediment. You may need to flush pipes with 1/2 pound of washing soda in 2 cups boiling water and then rinse. If pipes are clogged, you may need to use a plumber's friend or mix 1 cup each of baking soda, salt and white vinegar. Pour in drain. Wait 15 minutes and flush thoroughly with boiling water. If you choose to use a commercial drain cleaner, be sure to follow the directions closely.

Clean the Toilet

1. Wash the tank, bowl, seat and lid with disinfectant cleaner.
2. Scrub the inside of the toilet bowl with a toilet bowl brush. Do not use this brush for anything else.
3. To clean the toilet bowl, pour in 1/2 cup of liquid chlorine bleach. Let stand for at least 30 minutes, then scrub with a brush and flush. Remember, never mix ammonia and bleach. You can also use borax and lemon juice instead of the chlorine bleach.

Warning: Never combine chlorine bleach with household cleaners. This can make poison fumes that are deadly.

Tiles and Walls

Since mildew and mold can be problems, use a solution of bleach (3/4 cup) and water (1 gallon) to wash the grout on the tiles and walls. Let stand 5 minutes and rinse with clear water.

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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Charles L. Norman, Dean