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SP459-H Household Cleaning - Windows, Mirrors and Glass

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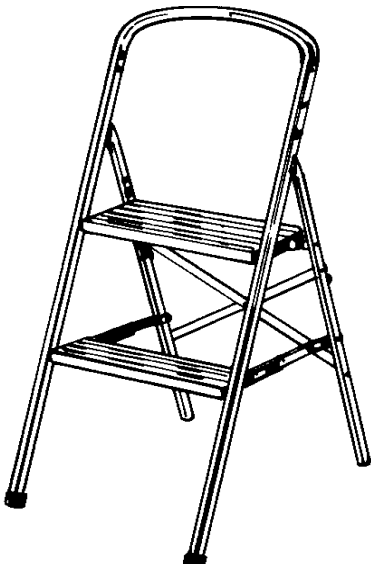
Agricultural Extension Service
The University of Tennessee
SP459-H

Household Cleaning

Windows, Mirrors and Glass

Supplies Needed

- Clean, lint-free cloths for washing, drying and shining.
- Crumpled newspapers or paper towels.
- Ammonia, detergent or vinegar. Vinegar may help stop glass and mirrors from fogging.
- A stepladder, stepstool or a sturdy chair. A stepladder may be safest.



Get Ready

1. Mix 1/2 cup vinegar or 1/2 cup ammonia in 1 gallon of water, or you can use a special glass cleaner.
2. It will be easier to use the homemade solution if it is placed in a spray pump bottle.

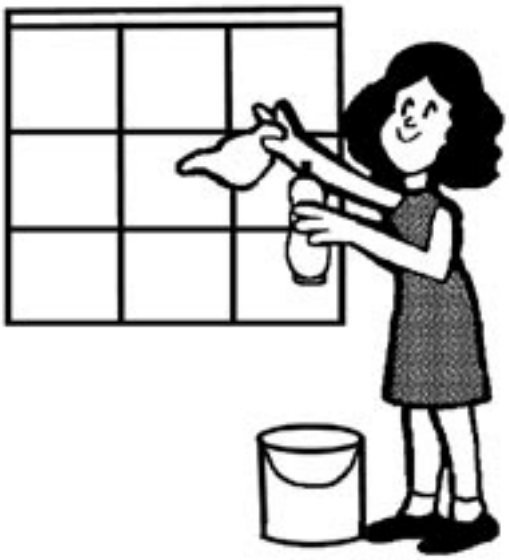
Clean the Glass

1. Brush window frames and sills to remove loose dirt.
2. Spray and clean top window panes first with cleaning solution and crumpled newspapers, paper towels or lint-free cloth.
3. Clean each pane from top to bottom.
4. Dry the panes with a dry cloth or paper to obtain streak-free surfaces.
5. Wipe and dry windowsills. You may want to wax the sills.

6. On windows, rub the inside in one direction (up and down) and the outside in another (side to side) to tell which side the streaks are on. Avoid spilling the cleaner on painted or varnished woodwork because it can damage the finish.

Clean mirrors and glass over pictures the same way you do window glass.

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.



Keep all cleaning products away from young children.

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