

SPRING CLEANING

YOUR REMODELED HOME

A Special Report Compliments of Greco Remodelers, Inc.

After you've remodeled your home, you want to keep it clean and looking new. The annual rite of spring cleaning can help to keep surfaces looking good longer.

Before cleaning any surface, always check the manufacturer's instructions. And be sure to check out the cleaning method on an inconspicuous spot.

For painted interior walls, use a mild household detergent, such as dish soap, and scrub with a sponge. For hard-to-clean areas, try a soft bristled scrub brush but be sure that the brush isn't so abrasive that it removes paint. Rinse the walls with clear water. Always check the paint manufacturer's suggestions for cleaning.

For wallpapered walls, clean washable wall coverings with a sponge and water. For scrubbable wall coverings, use a soft brush, mild soap and water. Wallpaper dealers can provide spot removers for problem areas. Always be sure to test any type of cleaning process on an inconspicuous area to make sure the color is not affected.

For windows, try a soft cloth and warm water or a household-strength window cleaner to remove dirt and grime. Don't use acidic and alkali cleaners or abrasive cleaners or tools which may scratch the glass surface. If your window has any type of special coating, always follow the manufacturer's directions for cleaning.

To clean mirror surfaces, use a soft cloth and clean, warm water. If you use a glass cleaner, be sure it's not a heavy ammonia cleaner. Ammonia can damage the mirror edges and backing. As with windows, avoid acidic and alkali cleaners. Don't use abrasive tools or cleaners as they can scratch the mirror's surface. When using a cleaner, spray it on the cloth and then wipe the mirror. Don't spray the cleaner directly on the mirror as this could create puddling at the edge of the mirror which could, in turn, lead to damage to the backing.

For laminate countertops, use a mild household cleaner and a soft-bristled brush to remove most stains. For stubborn stains, make a paste of baking soda and water, put it on the stain, and scrub lightly with a soft-bristle brush for about 10 strokes. Don't use too much pressure as you can damage the laminate surface. Always use clear water and a clean cloth to rinse the laminate after cleaning. If the cleaning solution is left on the laminate, it can make permanent marks on the surface.

For solid surface countertops, use a mild household cleaner and a soft cloth. Most solid surface manufacturers make a cleaner specifically for their own product.

For porcelain kitchen and bath surfaces, a mild household cleaner and a soft cloth will normally take care of most problems. For tough stains, try a cleaner containing oxalic acid such as Zud or Barkeeper's Friend. Always rinse the surface with clean water after using any cleaning solution. For soap scum, try a paste made from hydrogen peroxide and cream of tartar. Apply the paste and scrub with a stiff-bristled brush. For hard-water scum, make a solution of equal parts of vinegar and warm water. Apply on the stain with a nylon scouring pad and scrub gently. Be careful not to apply too much pressure and scratch the surface.

For porcelain, always test the solution on a small, inconspicuous area before cleaning the entire surface. Light-colored unglazed porcelain can soak up the cleaning solution, causing the surface to discolor.

For soap scum, water spots and other stains on tile surfaces, mop or sponge the surface with a neutral pH cleaner. Use a fine-bristled brush or a nylon pad for scrubbing. Never use steel wool as it can scratch the tile's surface. Neutral pH cleaners are available through tile dealers. For other stains such as food stains, use a cleaner recommended by the tile manufacturer. Never use muriatic acid or other acidic cleaners on tile as they can scratch the finish and ruin the shine.

Remember to always test an area first before cleaning the entire surface.

Keeping your newly remodeled areas clean will keep them looking new for years to come.