Wax applicators may be cotton yarns twisted in wire or lamb's wool which can be detached from a block for cleaning. The latter absorb less wax. The wool will stay soft longer if it is washed with dry-cleaning fluid. Both types come with long handles.

Mops

Mops should be washed in suds as often as necessary to keep them clean and sanitary, then rinsed and dried in the sun. Dry mops, including those of the "dustless" type, require washing. Mops should be hung by the handle when not in use.

Wet mops come in a variety of styles. The cheapest, called yatch mops, have yarns wired around a handle. Some are devised so they may be wrung without putting the hands in water. Others have yarns held in a clamp. The more durable and satisfactory mops are made of four or more ply yarns of long-staple cotton, and are lintless. They should be very absorbent. If stray ends of yarn are kept trimmed, baseboards are not so easily splashed.

Dry mops also are made in a variety of styles and shapes. Satisfactory ones have long-staple four-ply cotton yarn twisted in rustless wire. These are easier to clean than those with the yarns attached to a collar that slips over an iron frame, unless the mop can be removed for washing. Some have a spring to facilitate dusting and shaking. Triangular mops are popular because they cover as large a floor space as the oval mops and are easier to push into corners. Dry mops should be full and soft, with all metal protected by lamb's wool bumpers, rubber sockets, or other devices to keep it from scratching the floor. Some dry mops are impregnated with oil to make them "dustless"; they get dirty quickly and require frequent washing, which gradually takes out the oil.

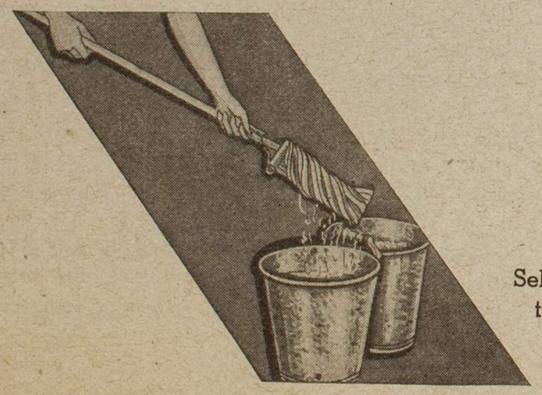
Dusters

Dusters may be made from clothing or household fabrics. Pieces of fine, soft wool make the most satisfactory dusting cloths; next in usefulness are soft cotton, especially knitted materials, or cheesecloth, and linen. Silk and rayon do not hold the dust well, nor are they as satisfactory for other types of cleaning as soft woolen, cotton, and linen fabrics.

Chamois

Chamois is excellent for washing windows because it cleans and polishes at the same time. It is made of sheepskin, oil tanned. French chamois costs more than domestic of a like quality and size, but is heavier and more durable. The quality of chamois can be judged by the elasticity. Those having the most stretch wear best and stay soft longest. The best are of even thickness throughout and lintless. They may be obtained in several sizes, the large being more satisfactory for washing windows.

Chamois should be washed in lukewarm suds, rinsed thoroughly, squeezed until as much moisture as possible is removed, and dried in the shade. Gentle pulling after drying will make it soft again.

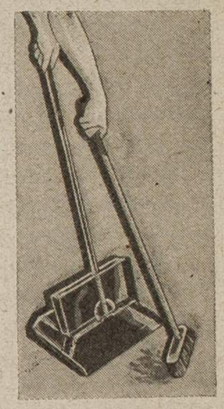


Self-wringing mop with twin pails, one for soapy and one for clear water.

Sponges

Sponges are better than cloths for washing walls, woodwork, and upholstery. Natural sponges, the most satisfactory type for house cleaning, are a marine fiber and are available in many grades and sizes. Those called sheep's-wool sponges are the best quality for household use, and next in desirability are velvet and yellow sponges. It is cheaper and more satisfactory to buy two small sponges than to buy one large one and cut it. Like chamois, sponges should be washed in lukewarm suds, thoroughly rinsed, as much moisture as possible squeezed out, and dried in the shade. A heavy thread or string run through sponges and tied at the ends makes it possible to hang them on hooks when drying or storing.

Artificial sponges (regenerated cellulose) are also used for cleaning purposes, but are more expensive than natural sponges.



Dustpans

Dustpans with long handles that eliminate stooping are the most desirable. They should be made of metal heavy enough to prevent easy denting, and with a pan high enough in the back to hold the dirt when the front edge tilts upward in carrying. The edge should come in direct contact with the floor throughout the entire length of the pan.

Pails

It is desirable to have two pails for use in cleaning, one for water with soap and the other with clear water for rinsing. Small twin pails fastened together at the handle are the most convenient because both may be carried in one hand or set together on a stepladder. Galvanized-iron pails are the most durable, but fiber pails are lighter and cheaper.

Vacuum cleaners

A vacuum cleaner is one of the most useful household tools because it removes dust and litter without scattering them. It also is one of the most difficult pieces of equipment to select because it is a complicated piece of machinery.

Differences in manufacturing efficiency and marketing practices result in a wide range of prices that may have only an indirect relation to the value of the cleaner. No one factor, such as suction or motor speed, should be used as a basis for selection.

In general the efficiency of a vacuum cleaner may be judged by its ability to remove the most dirt with the least expenditure of the operator's time and energy. The dirt that gets into rugs varies in different parts of the country, but usually is a combination of dust, larger gritty particles like sand, oil, and rubber left on pavements by automobiles and tracked into the house, and soot and oil from heating and cooking equipment. The heavier particles sink into the pile tufts. As the rug is walked on the sharp gritty particles cut the rug fibers and when the rug is cleaned the loosened fibers are sucked into the cleaner bag. Few if any cleaners remove firmly bound nap from floor coverings. The dirt in a rug may contain as much as 4 percent or more of oily matter, which binds the dust particles together and makes them more difficult to dislodge. An efficient vacuum cleaner should remove these deep-seated particles as well as surface litter and dust.

Suction, sweeping, and agitation are employed in the various types of vacuum cleaners to remove dirt. The straight-air cleaner depends largely on suction for dirt removal. The motor-driven brush machine uses suction plus sweeping and agitation, and because of the other factors the suction may be considerably lower than that used by the straight-air cleaner.

The suction of the cleaner depends upon the design of the fan as well as the speed with which it is driven by the motor. A well designed fan will produce