

but is more expensive. Copper and other metal sponges may be used in place of steel wool.

Polishes and waxes Wax protect floor and furniture finishes and keep them looking well with less time and effort than do other types of polishes. If the wax on the floors is renewed often enough, particularly in the paths of heaviest traffic, the finish remains intact. Since waxes readily mix with dirt and oil, surfaces should be washed before they are rewaxed.

Furniture and floor polishes often contain oil that attracts dirt unless they are thoroughly rubbed off after each application. It is common practice to put polish on a dust cloth and rub it on the furniture, without following with another rub with a clean cloth. Many furniture polishes are mixtures of mineral and sulfated oil in water, mineral oil and citronella (sometimes called lemon oil), or mineral oil and boiled linseed oil. Emulsified polishes contain water, oil, and an emulsifier. Mineral oils have a tendency to "sweat out." When any oil is used on furniture or floors it should be rubbed off as completely as possible.

Self-polishing waxes are emulsions of wax in water. The wax used is mostly carnauba, which makes a tough film. These preparations have great covering power and are inexpensive for frequent application. Manufacturers of linoleum, cork, mastic tile, and rubber floor coverings advise the exclusive use of this type of wax on their products, since the solvents in other types may damage these floor coverings. Self-polishing waxes are also used to some extent on furniture.

Liquid and paste waxes are made for use on both floors and furniture. Paste waxes contain about 20 to 35 percent of wax and give a heavier film, but require more polishing than the liquid products, which have about 10 to 15 percent of wax.

When waxes are used to preserve finishes it is cheaper to buy them in large quantities, for example, a gallon of self-polishing wax for the kitchen linoleum.

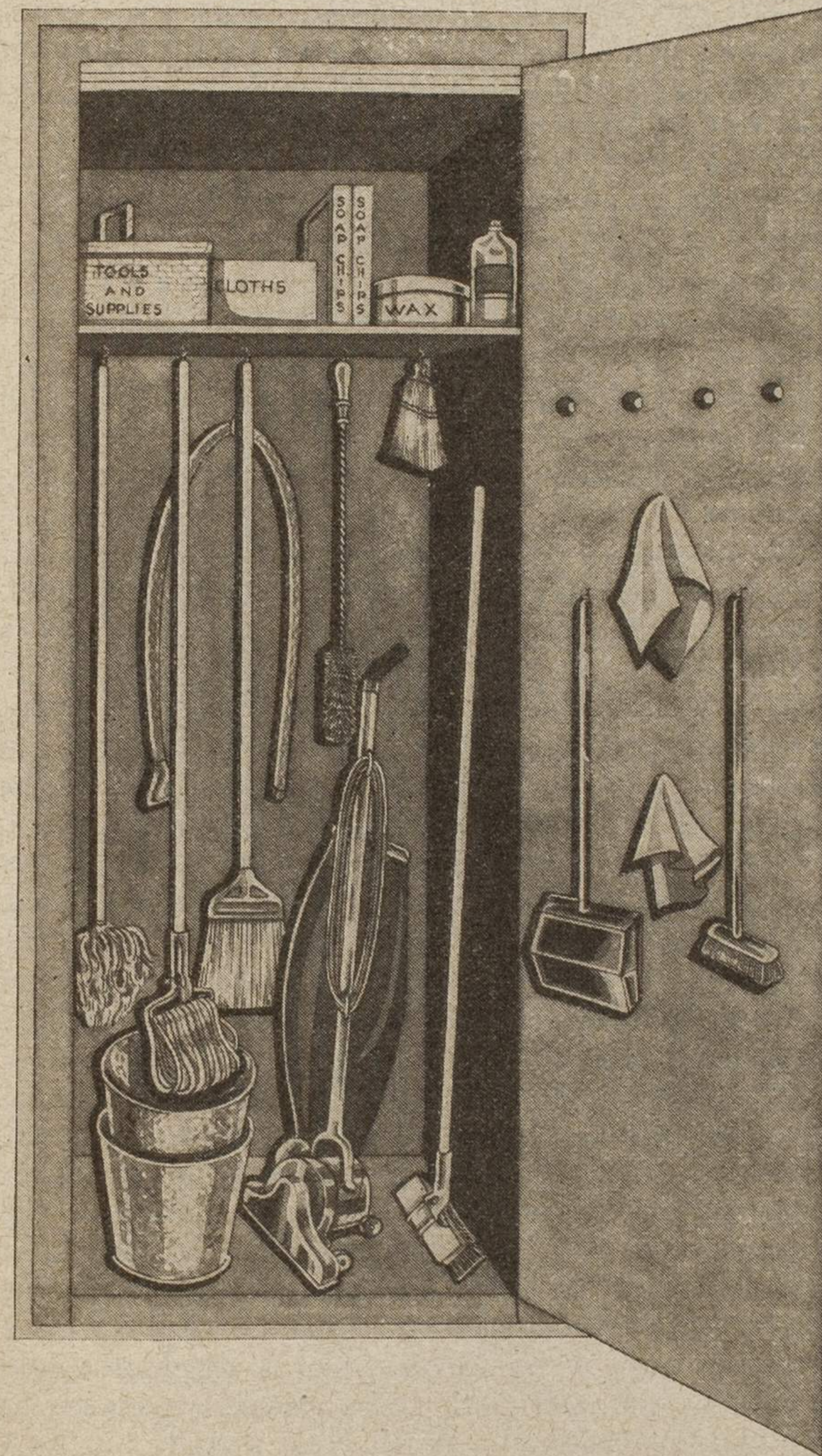
Since waxes must be melted and mixed with flammable turpentine and gasoline, it is hazardous to make these preparations in the home. There are many grades of waxes, and it often is impossible for the homemaker to obtain a satisfactory grade for home compounding.

Other cleaners Denatured or wood alcohol, which is poisonous, is used for cleaning piano keys because it does not yellow them as water does. It may also be used sparingly to rub over scratches on varnished furniture. Dry-cleaning fluid will remove chewing gum, tallow dripped from candles, dirt from lightly soiled upholstery fabrics, wax from polishing brushes, and old coats of wax that have become impregnated with dirt.

Storage of Tools and Supplies

A cleaning closet Ideally, cleaning tools and supplies should be stored together in a special closet designed for them, and sometimes it may also include space for table leaves and for a stepladder. In houses where no such closet was built in, it is often possible to adapt space near the kitchen and with easy access to other parts of the house. For example, a rear entrance hall may have one corner converted into a cleaning closet, or a movable metal cabinet may be bought and placed in an entrance hall or a large closet. Whatever the space there should be hooks high enough to hold brushes, brooms, and mops off the floor, and shelves high enough to hold bottles and jars without wasting space and yet not so deep that the supplies in front have to be moved every time to get at those in the rear.

The tools also should be so arranged that none has to be moved to take another out. Brushes, brooms, and mops should be hung by the handle so weight never rests on the bristles or fibers. The dustpan is hung with the edge toward the wall to avoid denting it. Hand-operated waxing brushes may have the handle removed and be laid with bristles up. If cloths used in waxing are not washed



Every house needs a cleaning closet where tools and supplies are stored ready for use

Note that brooms and brushes hang, rather than rest on their bristles . . . an easy - to - carry basket holds small tools and supplies . . . and holes in the door aid ventilation.

before they are put away, they must be kept in cans to eliminate fire hazards and odors. Carpet sweepers should rest on a side to keep pressure off the bristles. Vacuum cleaners may rest flat on the floor with the hose hung on a wall hook and the attachments laid on a shelf or hung up in a bag made for the purpose.

Dust cloths, mops, and brushes should be put away clean, dry, and ready for use, in order to save time, eliminate odors, and avoid storing dirt. Dusters and wet mops are easy to keep clean and sweet-smelling if they are washed out after each use and dried before storing. It takes only a few minutes to wash them if they are not allowed to become badly soiled. Dirty dust cloths and mops are unpleasant to use and cannot do a good job.