



By Cynthia Inman, Pres. of Ask Cindy, Inc. Residential & Commercial Cleaning Services

You can bet on that – first of all it's cheaper to accomplish than botox, or paying for a personal trainer. (Smile)

Through my askcindy 40/40 vision, I will guide you through great six star ★★★★★★ cleaning approaches. This question and answer series will surely address unsightly areas in your home or apartment. Yes, I referenced "six star" cleaning approaches. Let's face it, we decorate and accessorize with "six star" acquisitions for our dwellings as we are positively influenced by T.V. decorator shows, perfect design consultants, home fashion magazines, the Joneses, etc.

Now, here is where I come in - askcindy9500@aol.com. I can address all unsightly & unclean surfaces, accessories, furnishings and gently used hand me downs in one's home. I like all items and surfaces to look like they are apart of a perfectly organized and clean movie set. After all, an uncluttered, clean environment allows air to flow and that in turn energizes the environment. This energizes the inhabitants in a positive way, uplifting thoughts, aspirations and interactions with others. The following represents a few questions I've received:

1. Why doesn't my stainless steel cleaner and polisher give me that clean/perfect finish?

Answer: Put on your rubber gloves we have a process to follow. You must first wipe the stainless steel surface with a neutral soap and water solution. You must remove all dirt build up from the surface. A neutral soap can be any dish liquid degreaser.

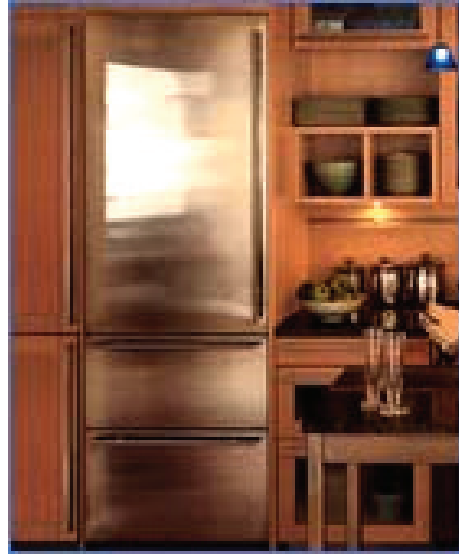
A white terry cloth towel dipped into a light soapy solution, squeezed out tightly will suffice. Wipe the surface clean and buff dry with a dry towel.

Now you are ready to apply the stainless steel polisher (polish not polish/cleaner). Gently spray your dry towel with the stainless steel polish. While wiping in one direction, watch the renewed beauty of your stainless steel appliance or surface come to life. Yes, my stainless steel coffee maker of 6 yrs., toaster oven of 9 yrs., refrigerator of 10 yrs., wall oven of 10 yrs., dishwasher of 10 yrs., range hood of 10 yrs. all look as if they were installed today.

2. My kitchen stone flooring looks so dull and the natural lines in the stone look so dark. Do I need a new floor?

Answer: No, your floor is dirty. First,

It can be a perfectly cleaned home after all!



we are going to give your kitchen floor a dedicated 24oz string mop to be used exclusively for the mopping of the kitchen floor. Let's label this mop on the upper part of the handle on one side and on the lower part of the handle on the opposite side with a black sharpie marker - kitchen only. We should wear a non-slip shoe bottom for this type of wet floor work.

The hardware store or Home Depot has a slip on that will transform your shoe bottoms into non-slip safety shoes for this type of wet floor work.

Also, we will need a short bristle scrub brush on a long handle, a bucket, a liquid degreaser, rubber gloves and energy. After all dirt build up requires an extra effort.

Now, open the windows for ventilation. Fill your bucket with warm water and a liquid degreaser. The amount of degreaser to water depends on the size of the floor area being cleaned at one time. I recommend sectioning the floor into small areas and completely finishing each area before going to the next. Be sure to follow the instructions on the degreaser container for pour amounts into a given water amount. Let's remember to always wear protective rubber gloves whenever you are handling detergents.

Now, the real work is before us. Targeting a small floor section dip your scrub brush into your solution, generously, wetting the floor. You should scrub in an up and down motion, stop- mop up- and look for unclean portions. Repeat to perfect the areas with remaining dirt. Changing your solution strength will depend on the dirt that remains on the floor. The solution should do a lot of the work for you. Scrub- mop up – rinse well – clean rinse the entire the floor with water only once you have successfully cleaned the entire floor. Your complete floor finish should not be slippery, and all lines should be clean. If necessary, on your hands and knees using a hand scrub brush remove any remaining dirt.

The best part is all the neglect will be gone and you will never have to do this again. You should maintain by

thoroughly sweeping your floor and cleaning afterwards by using a few drops of liquid degreaser in your water to wash your busy kitchen floor with your dedicated kitchen mop. Edges and corners should be wiped with a towel in hand. We don't walk on the edges and corners. Sweeping these areas regularly using an angle broom will prevent build-up. Unsightly, thick dirt build-up as a result of poor sweeping and then mopping the remaining dirt into the edges and corners creates the original problem. This issue applies to any floor surface. However, the cleaning detergent and cleaning techniques will change with different floor surfaces.

3. How do I clean my sliding glass doors leading onto my terrace?

Answer: You will need to remove all of the dirt and pitting build-up caused from the natural elements in the air. Use a bucket with warm water (filled). A solution with six (6) dish liquid drops will create the magnate solution necessary to remove the dirt from the metal frame around the glass. Wearing rubber gloves, and using my always recommended white terry cloth towels, begin to wipe the dirt from the frame. Next, with a new cloth, dry the frame. Please do this on both the inside and outside. Remember, to clean the inside of the carved out locking panel and the door track with its related floor edges and corners. If this has a dirt build up you will need a tooth brush for the intricate tight areas.

For the glass panels, use a fresh

solution of soap and water. The mixture should be the same as for the frame. Wet a new towel with the solution and then wipe the dirt from your glass panels.

Continue to dip-clean-wipe until your towel has removed all dirt to your watchful eye. Change your water when it becomes dirty. For the perfect finish clean your bucket completely. Now, with just plain water you should rinse your glass panels completely removing any soapy solution. This will clean your glass panels leaving you with a perfect streak free finish. To maintain, dust your glass panels and the surrounding frame with a dry terry cloth towel. Then using your choice of window cleaner, spray a paper towel and wipe the glass panels only. Finally, using a water/damply wet paper towel, wipe your sliding door floor track.

Yes, I have my favorite degreaser, stainless steel cleaner and polisher, string mop and handle, angle broom, bucket, white terry cloth towels, scrub brush, rubber gloves, and a host of ergonomic tools. Call or e-mail me, I will share my favorites with you.

It's been asked, "Where did you get this passion"? My answer, "It's a natural passion and I believe we are all here to contribute something"! Thank you for your questions and your expressed appreciation for this column. It truly is my absolute passion to help you enjoy your home, your castle.

Let's WIN!

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