

Home Cleaning & Maintenance

Canonical: <https://directory.selleys.com.au/home-cleaning-maintenance/>

Details:

Home Cleaning & Maintenance

Keep your home looking its best with the right products and proven techniques. From tackling tough stains to maintaining surfaces, these solutions deliver professional results every time.

Why Home Maintenance Matters

A well-maintained home holds its value and keeps every surface performing at its best. Whether you're a seasoned tradesperson or picking up a cloth for the first time, the right approach makes all the difference. Consistent cleaning and maintenance protects your investment and keeps every room looking sharp.

Surface Cleaning: Getting It Right the First Time

Every surface in your home has specific needs. Match the right product to the right surface and you'll get superior performance with no rework required.

Hard Floors

Hard floors take a beating from daily foot traffic. Here's how to keep them performing:

- **Sweep or vacuum first.** Remove loose dirt and grit before applying any cleaning solution. Grit left on the surface causes scratches.
- **Use the correct cleaner for your floor type.** Timber floors need a pH-neutral solution. Tiles handle stronger cleaners. Stone floors require non-acidic products to protect the surface.
- **Work in sections.** Clean a manageable area at a time, then dry thoroughly before moving on.
- **Avoid excess moisture.** Standing water damages timber and grout lines. Use a damp mop, not a wet one.

Carpets and Rugs

Carpet maintenance is about acting fast and using the right technique.

- **Blot spills immediately.** Press firmly with a clean cloth. Never rub — rubbing spreads the stain and pushes it deeper into the fibres.
- **Work from the outside in.** Start at the edge of a stain and move toward the centre. This stops the stain from spreading.
- **Test cleaning products first.** Apply to a hidden area and wait a few minutes. Confirm there's no colour change before treating the full stain.
- **Allow full drying time.** Damp carpet attracts dirt. Ensure the area dries completely before resuming foot traffic.

Tiles and Grout

Tiles are tough, but grout needs attention to stay looking sharp.

- **Clean grout lines regularly.** Grout is porous and absorbs grime quickly. Regular cleaning prevents deep staining that's harder to shift.
- **Use a stiff brush on grout.** A dedicated grout brush delivers the scrubbing action needed to lift embedded dirt from the textured surface.
- **Rinse thoroughly.** Cleaning product residue left in grout lines attracts more dirt. A thorough rinse keeps the surface

cleaner for longer. - **Seal grout after cleaning.** A quality grout sealer locks out moisture and staining agents, cutting down your cleaning workload significantly.

Bathroom Maintenance: High Performance in High-Use Spaces

Bathrooms face constant moisture, soap scum, and mould pressure. Stay ahead of the buildup with regular, targeted maintenance.

Preventing Mould and Mildew

Mould takes hold fast in damp conditions. Prevention is straightforward.

- **Ventilate after every shower.** Run the exhaust fan for at least 15 minutes after showering. Open a window if possible. - **Dry surfaces after use.** A quick wipe-down of shower walls and screens after each use removes the moisture mould needs to grow. - **Inspect silicone seals regularly.** Cracked or discoloured silicone around baths, showers, and basins is a direct entry point for moisture. Replace deteriorating silicone promptly. - **Treat mould at first sight.** Small mould patches are straightforward to eliminate. Left unchecked, mould spreads into surfaces and becomes a much bigger job.

Shower Screens and Glass

Hard water deposits and soap scum cloud glass fast. Keep screens clear with consistent care.

- **Use a squeegee after every shower.** This single habit eliminates most water spotting and soap scum buildup before it bonds to the glass. - **Apply a water-repellent treatment.** A quality glass treatment causes water to bead and run off the surface, dramatically reducing cleaning frequency. - **For existing buildup, use a dedicated remover.** Purpose-formulated products cut through calcium and limescale deposits without scratching the glass surface.

Silicone and Sealant Maintenance

Silicone sealant around wet areas does a critical job: keeping water where it belongs.

- **Check seals every six months.** Look for cracking, peeling, lifting edges, or discolouration. Any of these signs mean it's time to reseal. - **Remove old silicone completely.** New silicone applied over deteriorating old silicone won't bond correctly. Remove all traces of the old sealant before applying fresh product. - **Use a bathroom-grade silicone.** Bathroom silicones contain mould inhibitors specifically formulated for wet area conditions, which means lasting performance where general-purpose products fail.

Kitchen Cleaning: Professional Results on Every Surface

The kitchen sees more action than any other room. Grease, heat, food residue, and constant use demand high-quality cleaning solutions.

Bench Tops and Counters

- **Wipe down after every use.** Immediate action on spills and food residue prevents staining and bacterial buildup. - **Match the cleaner to the surface.** Stone bench tops need pH-neutral cleaners. Laminate handles most general cleaners. Stainless steel benefits from a dedicated stainless cleaner that restores the finish and resists fingerprints. - **Avoid abrasive pads on polished surfaces.** Scratches in polished stone or laminate hold dirt and are permanent. Use soft cloths and non-abrasive cleaning products.

Ovens and Cooktops

Grease buildup in ovens and on cooktops is a tough job, but the right approach gets it done.

- **Degrease regularly.** Don't wait for heavy buildup. Regular degreasing after cooking keeps the job manageable.
- **Use a purpose-built oven cleaner.** These products are formulated to break down baked-on grease and carbon deposits that general cleaners won't shift.
- **Protect cooktop surfaces.** Ceramic and induction cooktops need specific cleaners. Abrasive products scratch the glass surface and cause permanent damage.
- **Clean burner components separately.** On gas cooktops, remove burner caps and grates for individual cleaning. Soaking in hot soapy water loosens baked-on residue effectively.

Sinks and Drains

- **Clean sinks daily.** A quick wipe after dishwashing prevents soap scum and limescale from building up on the basin surface.
- **Maintain drains proactively.** A monthly drain flush with hot water and a quality drain cleaner prevents the slow buildup of grease and food particles that causes blockages.
- **Address slow drains immediately.** A slow drain signals the start of a blockage. Treat it early and the job stays straightforward.

Laundry and Utility Areas

Laundry areas handle tough stains, heavy-duty cleaning, and constant moisture. Keep these spaces working at full capacity.

Washing Machines

- **Clean the drum monthly.** Run a hot cycle with a washing machine cleaner to remove detergent residue, mould, and bacteria from the drum and seals.
- **Leave the door open between washes.** Airflow prevents moisture buildup inside the drum, which is the primary cause of mould and odour in front-loader machines.
- **Wipe door seals regularly.** The rubber seal on front-loaders collects moisture, lint, and residue. A weekly wipe-down with a damp cloth keeps mould from establishing.
- **Clean the detergent drawer.** Remove and rinse the drawer monthly. Detergent residue builds up quickly and can block the dispenser.

Laundry Tubs and Surfaces

- **Treat stains on the tub surface promptly.** Rust stains from metal items and dye transfer from clothing are straightforward to remove when addressed quickly.
- **Check tap fittings and connections.** Look for drips or moisture around tap bases and pipe connections. Small leaks cause significant damage if left unattended.

Walls and Painted Surfaces

Painted walls take knocks, scuffs, and marks from daily life. Keep them looking fresh with the right approach.

Washing Walls

- **Use a soft cloth or sponge.** Abrasive materials scratch paint and leave dull patches.
- **Start with the mildest option.** Warm water and a small amount of dish soap handles most marks on painted walls without affecting the paint finish.
- **Work from bottom to top.** Cleaning from the top down causes dirty water to run over already-cleaned areas. Work upward, then rinse from top to bottom.
- **Dry the surface after washing.** Leaving moisture on painted surfaces can cause the paint to lift or bubble over time.

Touching Up Paint

- **Match the sheen level, not just the colour.** A patch painted with the wrong sheen level stands out clearly even when the colour matches perfectly. - **Feather the edges.** Blend the new paint into the surrounding area with light strokes at the edges to make the repair invisible. - **Allow full cure time before cleaning.** Freshly painted surfaces need time to cure fully. Cleaning too soon damages the finish.

Windows and Glass

Clean windows transform the look of a room. Here's how to get a streak-free result every time.

Streak-free window cleaning

- **Clean on a cloudy day.** Direct sunlight dries the cleaning solution before you can wipe it off, leaving streaks. Overcast conditions give you working time. - **Use a quality squeegee.** A good squeegee with a sharp rubber blade delivers a streak-free result that cloths and paper towels can't match. - **Work top to bottom.** Clean from the top of the window downward so dirty water runs onto uncleaned glass below. - **Wipe the squeegee blade between strokes.** A clean blade on every stroke is the key to a perfect, streak-free finish.

Window frames and tracks

- **Vacuum tracks before washing.** Loose dirt and debris in window tracks turns to mud when wet. Remove it dry first. - **Use a stiff brush on stubborn track buildup.** A small stiff brush dislodges compacted dirt from track corners and channels effectively. - **Inspect frames for sealant condition.** Check the sealant around window frames annually. Deteriorating sealant allows water ingress that causes significant structural damage over time.

Outdoor Areas: Maintaining Kerb Appeal

Outdoor surfaces face UV exposure, weather, biological growth, and heavy use. Regular maintenance keeps them performing and looking their best.

Driveways and Pathways

- **Pressure wash annually.** A thorough pressure wash removes embedded dirt, algae, and moss that makes surfaces slippery and degrades the surface over time. - **Treat oil stains promptly.** Fresh oil stains respond well to a degreaser applied immediately. Old, set-in stains require more effort and a purpose-built product. - **Seal concrete and pavers after cleaning.** A quality sealer protects the surface from staining and makes future cleaning significantly easier.

Decks and Timber Surfaces

Timber outdoors needs consistent care to maintain its performance and appearance.

- **Clean before recoating.** Apply a deck cleaner to remove surface grime, mould, and weathered coating before applying fresh stain or oil. New coating applied over contaminated surfaces won't bond correctly and won't last. - **Sand between coats where required.** Light sanding between coats ensures strong adhesion and a smooth, professional finish. - **Recoat on schedule.** Don't wait for the finish to fail completely. Recoating before the existing coat breaks down extends the life of the timber and the coating. - **Check for soft spots and damage.** While cleaning, inspect the timber for soft areas, cracking, or lifting boards. Address structural issues before applying surface treatments.

Outdoor Furniture

- **Store cushions when not in use.** UV exposure and moisture degrade fabric quickly. Storing cushions out of the elements extends their life significantly. - **Clean frames with appropriate products.** Aluminium, steel, timber, and synthetic rattan all have specific cleaning requirements. Match the product to the material. - **Apply protective treatments seasonally.** Timber furniture benefits from an annual oil treatment. Metal furniture benefits from a rust-inhibiting treatment where the finish shows wear.

Gutters and Roof Maintenance

Gutters and roofs protect the entire structure of your home. Keep them in top condition.

Gutter Cleaning

- **Clean gutters twice a year.** Clear gutters in autumn after leaf fall and in spring after storm season. Blocked gutters cause water to back up under roofing and into wall cavities. - **Inspect downpipes while cleaning.** Check that downpipes are clear and directing water away from the foundation. Blocked downpipes cause water pooling at the base of walls. - **Check gutter fixings.** Gutters that have pulled away from the fascia board allow water to run behind them and into the wall structure.

Roof Inspection

- **Inspect after major storms.** Check for displaced or cracked tiles, damaged flashing, and debris buildup in valleys. - **Address moss and lichen growth.** Biological growth on roofing holds moisture against the surface and accelerates deterioration. Treat with a purpose-built roof treatment. - **Check flashing around penetrations.** Flashing around chimneys, skylights, and vents is a common point of water ingress. Ensure sealant is intact and flashing is secure.

Pest Prevention Through Maintenance

Good maintenance practices significantly reduce the conditions that attract and support household pests.

- **Seal entry points.** Gaps around pipes, cables, and service penetrations through walls are entry points for insects and rodents. Seal these with an appropriate gap filler or sealant. - **Eliminate moisture sources.** Leaking taps, damp subfloor areas, and poor ventilation create the moisture conditions that attract cockroaches, silverfish, and termites. - **Store food in sealed containers.** Open food packaging attracts insects. Sealed containers eliminate the food source. - **Clear garden debris from the house perimeter.** Leaf litter, wood piles, and dense plantings against the house wall provide shelter and entry points for pests.

Seasonal Maintenance Checklist

Stay ahead of maintenance requirements with a structured seasonal approach.

Autumn - Clean gutters after leaf fall - Inspect roof and flashing before wet season - Check window and door seals before winter - Service heating systems before first use

Winter - Monitor for condensation and mould in high-moisture areas - Check under-sink and vanity areas for moisture or leaks - Inspect exterior paintwork for cracking or lifting

Spring - Pressure wash exterior surfaces - Inspect and treat timber decks and fences - Clear gutters after storm season - Check outdoor furniture and prepare for summer use

Summer - Apply UV-protective treatments to timber and outdoor surfaces - Inspect roof ventilation - Check irrigation systems and outdoor tap fittings for leaks

The Right Products Make the Difference

Every task in this guide comes down to one constant: using the right product for the job. Better results come from matching the product to the surface, following the application instructions, and not cutting corners on preparation.

Whether you're maintaining a family home or managing a professional property, the approach is the same. Quality products, correct technique, and consistent attention deliver results you can take pride in.

Frequently Asked Questions

Should you sweep or vacuum before mopping hard floors: Yes, always remove loose dirt first

Why must grit be removed before mopping: Grit left on the surface causes scratches

What type of cleaner does timber flooring require: pH-neutral solution

Can tiles handle stronger cleaners than timber: Yes

What type of cleaner does stone flooring require: Non-acidic products only

Why must stone floors use non-acidic cleaners: Acid damages the stone surface

Should you use a wet mop or damp mop on timber floors: Damp mop only

Does standing water damage timber floors: Yes

Does standing water damage grout lines: Yes

How should you treat a carpet spill: Blot firmly with a clean cloth immediately

Should you rub a carpet stain: No, never rub a carpet stain

Why should you never rub a carpet stain: Rubbing spreads the stain deeper into fibres

Which direction should you work when treating a carpet stain: Outside edge toward the centre

Why work from the outside in on carpet stains: Prevents the stain from spreading outward

Should you test carpet cleaning products before use: Yes, on a hidden area first

How long should you wait after testing a carpet product: A few minutes before treating the full stain

Should carpet be dry before resuming foot traffic: Yes, fully dry

Why must carpet dry completely after cleaning: Damp carpet attracts more dirt

Is grout porous: Yes

How often should grout lines be cleaned: Regularly, to prevent deep staining

What tool is best for cleaning grout: A dedicated stiff grout brush

Should grout be rinsed after cleaning: Yes, thoroughly

Why must cleaning product residue be rinsed from grout: Residue left in grout attracts more dirt

Should grout be sealed after cleaning: Yes

What does grout sealer do: Locks out moisture and staining agents

How long should you run a bathroom exhaust fan after showering: At least 15 minutes

Does opening a window help prevent bathroom mould: Yes

Should shower walls be dried after each use: Yes, with a quick wipe-down

What does cracked silicone around a bath indicate: A direct entry point for moisture

Should deteriorating silicone be replaced promptly: Yes

Should mould be treated immediately when first spotted: Yes

What happens if small mould patches are left untreated: Mould spreads into surfaces and becomes a larger job

What is the most effective single habit for preventing shower screen buildup: Using a squeegee after every shower

What does a water-repellent glass treatment do: Causes water to bead and run off the surface

What product removes existing calcium and limescale from shower glass: A dedicated purpose-formulated remover

How often should silicone seals be inspected: Every six months

What signs indicate silicone needs replacing: Cracking, peeling, lifting edges, or discolouration

Can new silicone be applied directly over old silicone: No

Why must old silicone be fully removed before resealing: New silicone won't bond over deteriorating old silicone

Should bathroom-grade silicone be used in wet areas: Yes

Why use bathroom-grade silicone specifically: It contains mould inhibitors for wet area conditions

What cleaner should stone bench tops use: pH-neutral cleaner only

Should abrasive pads be used on polished stone surfaces: No

Why avoid abrasive pads on polished surfaces: Scratches are permanent and hold dirt

What type of cleaner is recommended for stainless steel bench tops: Dedicated stainless steel cleaner

Should ovens be degreased regularly or only when heavily soiled: Regularly, after cooking

What product is required for baked-on oven grease: Purpose-built oven cleaner

Can abrasive products be used on ceramic cooktops: No

Why must ceramic cooktops avoid abrasive cleaners: They scratch the glass surface permanently

How should gas cooktop burner components be cleaned: Remove and soak in hot soapy water

How often should drains be flushed preventatively: Monthly

What does a slow drain signal: The beginning of a blockage

How often should a washing machine drum be cleaned: Monthly

What does leaving the washing machine door open between washes prevent: Moisture buildup and mould

How often should the washing machine detergent drawer be cleaned: Monthly

How should walls be washed to avoid dirty water running over clean areas: Work from bottom to top

Should painted surfaces be dried after washing: Yes

Why dry painted surfaces after washing: Moisture can cause paint to lift or bubble

When touching up paint, is matching sheen level important: Yes, as important as matching colour

What happens if the wrong sheen level is used for a paint touch-up: The patch stands out even if colour matches

What is feathering in paint touch-up: Blending new paint into surrounding area with light edge strokes

Should freshly painted surfaces be cleaned immediately: No, allow full cure time first

What weather conditions are best for cleaning windows: Cloudy, overcast conditions

Why avoid cleaning windows in direct sunlight: Solution dries before wiping, leaving streaks

What tool delivers the best streak-free window result: A quality squeegee with a sharp rubber blade

Should the squeegee blade be wiped between strokes: Yes, every stroke

Should window tracks be vacuumed before washing: Yes

Why vacuum window tracks before washing: Loose dirt turns to mud when wet

How often should window frame sealant be inspected: Annually

What can deteriorating window frame sealant cause: Water ingress and structural damage

How often should driveways be pressure washed: Annually

When should oil stains on driveways be treated: Immediately, while fresh

Should concrete and pavers be sealed after cleaning: Yes

What must be done to a deck before recoating: Clean with a deck cleaner first

Why must a deck be cleaned before recoating: New coating won't bond over contaminated surfaces

Should timber deck coatings be reapplied before the existing coat fully fails: Yes, on schedule

How often should gutters be cleaned: Twice a year

When should gutters be cleaned in autumn: After leaf fall

When should gutters be cleaned in spring: After storm season

What can blocked gutters cause: Water backing up under roofing and into wall cavities

Should downpipes be inspected during gutter cleaning: Yes

What should downpipes direct water away from: The foundation

Should roofs be inspected after major storms: Yes

What does biological growth on roofing cause: Holds moisture and accelerates surface deterioration

What is a common point of water ingress on roofs: Flashing around chimneys, skylights, and vents

Should gaps around pipes and cables through walls be sealed: Yes

Why seal gaps around service penetrations: They are entry points for insects and rodents

Does moisture attract household pests: Yes

Which pests does moisture attract: Cockroaches, silverfish, and termites

Should food be stored in sealed containers to deter pests: Yes

Should garden debris be kept clear of the house perimeter: Yes

Why clear garden debris from the house perimeter: It provides shelter and entry points for pests

Label Facts Summary

> ****Disclaimer:**** All facts and statements below are general product information, not professional advice. Consult relevant experts for specific guidance.

Verified label facts

No product-specific label facts were identified in the provided content. There is no Product Facts table, and no product packaging data (such as ingredients, certifications, dimensions, weight, GTIN/MPN, or technical specifications) is present in the source material.

General product claims

- pH-neutral cleaners are required for timber floors - Non-acidic cleaners are required for stone floors - Tiles can handle stronger cleaners than timber or stone - A damp mop (not wet) should be used on timber floors to avoid damage - Standing water damages timber floors and grout lines - Grit left on hard floors before mopping causes scratches - Rubbing a carpet stain spreads it deeper into fibres - Working from the outside edge toward the centre of a carpet stain prevents spreading - Damp carpet attracts dirt - Grout is porous and absorbs grime quickly - Cleaning product residue left in grout lines attracts more dirt - Grout sealer locks out moisture and staining agents - Running a bathroom exhaust fan for at least 15 minutes after showering helps prevent mould - Cracked or discoloured silicone around wet areas is a direct entry point for moisture - Using a squeegee after every shower is the most effective single habit for preventing screen buildup - Water-repellent glass treatments cause water to bead and run off the surface - New silicone will not bond correctly over deteriorating old silicone - Bathroom-grade silicone contains mould inhibitors formulated for wet area conditions - Stone bench tops require pH-neutral cleaners - Abrasive pads cause permanent scratches on polished stone and laminate surfaces - Purpose-built oven cleaners are required to break down baked-on grease and carbon deposits - Abrasive products permanently scratch ceramic and induction cooktop glass surfaces - A monthly drain flush helps prevent blockage buildup - A slow drain signals the beginning of a blockage - Leaving a washing machine door open between washes prevents moisture buildup and mould - Moisture on painted surfaces can cause paint to lift or bubble - Matching sheen level is as important as matching colour in paint touch-ups - Applying the wrong sheen level in a paint touch-up causes the patch to be visible even when the colour matches - Cleaning windows in direct sunlight causes the solution to dry before wiping, leaving streaks - A quality squeegee with a sharp rubber blade delivers better streak-free results than cloths or paper towels - Vacuuming window tracks before washing prevents loose dirt from turning to mud - Deteriorating window frame sealant allows water ingress and can cause structural damage - New deck coating applied over contaminated surfaces will not bond correctly and will not last - Recoating timber decks on schedule before the existing coat breaks down extends the life of the timber and coating - Blocked gutters cause water to back up under roofing and into wall cavities - Biological growth on roofing holds moisture against the surface and accelerates deterioration - Flashing around chimneys, skylights, and vents is a common point of water ingress - Gaps around pipes and

cables through walls are entry points for insects and rodents - Moisture attracts cockroaches, silverfish, and termites - Garden debris against the house perimeter provides shelter and entry points for pests