

The Complete Guide to Cleaning & Stain Removal with Selleys: Mould, Grease, Grout, Glass, Hard Water, Ovens & BBQs

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Details:

I'll research authoritative cross-cutting sources to strengthen the pillar page with data that spans multiple cluster subtopics simultaneously. Now I have comprehensive, authoritative data to build the definitive pillar page. Let me compose the final verified content.

The Complete Guide to Cleaning & Stain Removal with Selleys: Mould, Grease, Grout, Glass, Hard Water, Ovens & BBQs

Executive Summary

Every cleaning failure in the home has the same root cause: a mismatch between the chemistry of the stain and the chemistry of the cleaner. Mould is a living biological deposit that requires an oxidising agent to destroy it at a cellular level. Kitchen grease is a hydrophobic polymer that demands alkaline saponification to convert it into something water can wash away. Mineral scale is an inorganic crystal matrix that only acid can dissolve. Carbonised oven and BBQ residue is a cross-linked carbon compound that requires caustic or surfactant-based heavy-duty chemistry — and the right choice depends on whether the surface is a sealed oven interior or a food-contact grill grate.

This guide is the definitive synthesis of the Selleys cleaning series. It unifies the chemistry, the product selection logic, the surface-specific techniques, and the preventative schedule across every major household stain type — mould, grease, grout discolouration, hard water scale, soap scum, baked-on oven residue, and BBQ carbon — into a single authoritative resource. Whether you are diagnosing a problem for the first time, choosing between Selleys products, or building a year-round maintenance routine that prevents heavy-duty intervention, this is where to start.

Indoor mould growth is a common issue that occurs in homes and workplaces across Australia and was estimated by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2009 to affect 10% to 50% of indoor environments. In Australia, kitchens are reported as the number one source of fires in buildings, identified as the source of 25% of all structural fires. Total hardness in major Australian reticulated supplies ranges between about 5 mg/L and about 380 mg/L — a spread that determines whether your shower screen needs a quick wipe or a dedicated descaling treatment. Understanding these facts is not academic; it is the foundation of every smart cleaning decision in the home.

Part 1: The Chemistry Framework — Why Stains Are Not All the Same

Before selecting any product, the single most important question to answer is: *what type of stain am I actually dealing with?* The answer determines everything — the active ingredient required, the correct pH, the appropriate dwell time, and whether scrubbing helps or hinders.

(For the complete scientific deep-dive into stain chemistry, see our foundational article *Why Household Stains Form and How the Right Cleaner Breaks Them Down*.)

The Four Dominant Household Stain Types

The four stain categories that account for the vast majority of household cleaning challenges — mould, grease, mineral scale, and carbonised food — are each built from fundamentally different molecular structures. This is the core insight that separates informed cleaning from guesswork.

| Stain Type | Chemical Nature | pH Required | Primary Active Ingredient | |---|---|---|---| | ****Mould**** | Living biological deposit (fungal hyphae, spores, metabolites) | Alkaline + oxidising | Sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) | | ****Grease / Fat**** | Hydrophobic triglycerides; polymerises under heat | High alkaline (pH 11–14) | Alkaline saponifiers + surfactants | | ****Mineral Scale**** | Inorganic calcium/magnesium carbonate crystals | Acidic (pH 11) | Caustic alkalis, monoethanolamine |

****Why pH is the master variable:**** pH plays an important role in cleaning, impacting the solubility and reactivity of both the stain and the cleaning agent. Using the wrong pH can set the stain or damage the material. This is precisely why an alkaline all-purpose spray leaves hard water deposits completely untouched (calcium carbonate is inert to alkaline and neutral cleaners), and why a glass cleaner does nothing to mould (it contains neither oxidising agents nor fungicidal chemistry).

The Cross-Cutting Principle: Match Chemistry to Stain, Not to Surface

The most common cleaning mistake in Australian homes is product selection based on the surface being cleaned (bathroom, kitchen, BBQ) rather than the stain type present. A bathroom can harbour all four stain types simultaneously: mould on the grout, mineral scale on the shower screen, soap scum on the glass, and grease residue on the vanity from skincare products. Each requires a different chemical approach — applied in the correct sequence.

The correct sequence is always: ****identify → match chemistry → apply in order of stain type severity → prevent recurrence.****

Part 2: Mould — The Biological Hazard in Your Bathroom

Why Mould Is More Than a Cosmetic Problem

The WHO's review concludes that the most important effects of indoor mould are increased prevalences of respiratory symptoms, allergies and asthma, as well as perturbation of the immunological system. Microbial pollution is a key element of indoor air pollution, caused by hundreds of species of bacteria and fungi, in particular filamentous fungi (mould), growing indoors when sufficient moisture is available.

A meta-analysis assessing indicators of indoor dampness and mould exposure found strong evidence of a causal relationship with asthma onset. This is consistent with previous meta-analytic findings that associate building dampness and mould with a 30% to 80% increase in respiratory outcomes, reinforcing the need for preventative interventions.

The dark staining visible on bathroom grout, silicone seals, and wall surfaces is the combination of fungal hyphae, spores, and the pigmented metabolic byproducts the colony releases as it digests organic matter embedded in the surface. Treating it as a cosmetic problem — painting over it or wiping the surface — is insufficient. The colony must be killed at a cellular level.

How Selleys Rapid Mould Killer Works

Selleys Rapid Mould Killer contains sodium hydroxide and sodium hypochlorite — a dual-action formulation combining an alkaline base with a powerful oxidising agent. When sodium hypochlorite dissolves in water, it decomposes into hypochlorous acid and hypochlorite ions, both powerful oxidisers that attack mould at the cellular level, breaking apart the proteins and organic structures that hold mould cells together.

Published research confirmed that five-minute exposures to 2.4% sodium hypochlorite resulted in a >3 to >6-log reduction of culturable mould counts, and *Aspergillus fumigatus* spore-eluted allergen levels were reduced by an average of 95.8% in 30 seconds. This means Selleys Rapid Mould Killer doesn't just bleach visible staining — it chemically dismantles the biological structure of the colony and neutralises the allergen-triggering proteins that cause respiratory reactions.

Surface-Specific Mould Treatment: The Critical Distinctions

Not all bathroom surfaces respond to mould treatment identically. (For the complete surface-by-surface protocol, see our guide **How to Remove Mould from Bathrooms, Walls and Silicone Seals Using Selleys Rapid Mould Killer**.)

****The most important distinction is between surface mould and embedded mould on silicone seals.**** Surface mould — early-stage grey or light black discolouration — can be treated chemically with a minimum 5-minute dwell time. Embedded mould, where black pigmentation has penetrated deep into the silicone matrix, cannot be fully removed by any cleaning product. It requires sealant replacement: the contaminated strip must be cut away to eliminate the internal fungal growth that cleaning cannot reach.

****Grout requires the longest dwell time**** of any bathroom surface — 5 to 10 minutes minimum — because mould infiltrates the porous cement matrix and anchors within the material rather than sitting on top of it. Glazed ceramic tiles, by contrast, have a non-porous glaze that prevents deep penetration, so 2–3 minutes is typically sufficient.

****Painted walls demand the most cautious approach.**** The alkaline sodium hydroxide component can cause discolouration or paint lifting if used at full concentration or left for extended periods. Limit dwell time to 2–3 minutes maximum and always patch test first.

Surface	Minimum Dwell Time	Maximum Dwell Time	Key Risk	--- --- --- ---	Glazed ceramic/porcelain tiles	2 min	5 min	Patch test matt finishes	Grout lines	5 min	10 min	Repeat if staining persists	Silicone seals (surface mould)	5 min	15 min	Replace if mould is embedded	Painted walls	2 min	3 min	Patch test; fix moisture source
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The Mould-Grout Connection: A Cross-Cutting Insight

Here is an insight that individual cluster articles address separately but that becomes clear only when viewed together: ****mould treatment and grout whitening are sequential, not interchangeable.**** Applying Selleys Grout Stain Whitener over active mould growth seals the problem in rather than resolving it. The correct workflow is always: treat with Selleys Rapid Mould Killer → allow to dry completely → then apply Grout Stain Whitener as a restorative and protective coating.

This sequencing principle — kill the biology before applying the cosmetic — is the most commonly skipped step in bathroom restoration, and the primary reason grout whitening results are short-lived in mould-prone bathrooms.

Part 3: Grout — Restoration, Whitening, and Long-Term Protection

Why Grout Discolouration Is Never Just One Problem

Grout is essentially concrete — a porous mixture of cement, sand, and water — and like concrete, it absorbs moisture, dust, and stains easily. According to the Tile Council of North America, standard cementitious grout can absorb up to 10% of its weight in water. That absorption capacity makes it a reliable host for every stain-forming agent in a typical household: mould spores, mineral salts, grease residue, and pigmented spills.

The critical diagnostic step — one that most homeowners skip — is identifying **which type** of discolouration is present before reaching for any product:

- ****Uniform greying or browning**** across all lines → surface staining from dirt and soap residue - ****Patchy yellow, orange, or rust tones**** → mineral deposits or organic staining (coffee, wine, hair dye, makeup) - ****Black or dark green spots****, especially near waterlines → mould growth requiring pre-treatment before whitening

How Selleys Grout Stain Whitener Works — and Why Sequence Matters

Selleys Grout Stain Whitener is not simply a paint or cosmetic cover. The formulation performs three simultaneous functions: it covers and whitens stains caused by mould growth, in-ground dirt, or spilt makeup or hair dye; it creates a barrier that makes it difficult for mould spores to take hold; and it contains a fungicide to help prevent mould regrowth. This makes it both a restorative whitener and a preventative barrier in a single application.

But the product's performance depends entirely on surface preparation. Unsealed grout behaves like a sponge — oils, spills, and moisture sink in and permanently stain the surface. If those contaminants are still present when Grout Stain Whitener is applied, the product locks them in rather than covering them effectively, and results will be uneven and short-lived.

****The non-negotiable sequence:**** clean → treat mould (if present) → dry completely → whiten → protect → allow 5 hours before water exposure.

(For the complete step-by-step restoration workflow including room-by-room guidance, see our guide **Grout Cleaning and Whitening: How to Restore Discoloured Grout with Selleys Grout Stain Whitener**.)

Grout and Hard Water: The Compounding Problem

In hard water areas, grout faces a double challenge that soft-water regions do not: in addition to mould and dirt, mineral scale deposits from hard water accumulate in grout lines, creating a chalky or dark appearance depending on local water chemistry. In cities like Perth, Perth has the widest range of water hardness of any Australian capital. In Dwellingup, it measures 29 mg/L. In Two Rocks, 228 mg/L. That's a 199 mg/L spread within a single city's supply network, and it means your experience with Perth tap water depends almost entirely on which suburb you live in.

For grout in high-hardness areas, pre-cleaning must address both the mineral film (acid-based treatment) and any organic staining (alkaline treatment) before whitening — making the cleaning sequence more involved than in soft-water cities.

Part 4: Hard Water and Soap Scum — The Chemistry of Glass and Shower Screens

The Australian Hard Water Context

Total hardness in major Australian reticulated supplies ranges between about 5 mg/L and about 380 mg/L. The practical consequences for shower screen maintenance are significant and city-specific. Melbourne averages 18 mg/L, Sydney averages 43 mg/L, and Adelaide averages 103 mg/L. Water hardness in Perth ranges from 29 mg/L in the southern hills to 228 mg/L in the northern suburbs, with a city-wide average of 96 mg/L.

Water hardness in Brisbane ranges from 53 mg/L in the Moreton zone to 114.8 mg/L in the Brisbane zone, with a city-wide average of about 81 mg/L — notably harder than Sydney or Melbourne but softer than Adelaide or Perth.

Water with a total hardness above 200 mg/L can cause a rapid build-up of undesirable deposits, or scale, in hot water pipes and fittings. The same principle applies to shower screens, tiles, and taps. A Sydney household averaging ~43 mg/L may see light water spotting that a streak-free cleaner handles perfectly. A Perth household in the northern corridor where hardness can exceed 200 mg/L is dealing with a fundamentally different problem — one that requires chemical descaling, not just a spray-and-wipe.

Why Soap Scum and Mineral Scale Are Chemically Different

This is the most misunderstood aspect of shower screen cleaning. "Shower screen buildup" is not a single substance — it is a layered composite of two chemically distinct deposit types, each requiring a different removal strategy.

****Mineral scale**** (calcium carbonate) is an inorganic crystal matrix that forms when hard water evaporates. It is chemically inert to alkaline and neutral cleaners. Only acid can dissolve it, via a straightforward neutralisation reaction: the acid donates hydrogen ions that react with the carbonate to form water and carbon dioxide — the fizzing you see when a descaler contacts heavy scale.

****Soap scum**** is a distinct compound — calcium stearate and magnesium stearate formed when the calcium and magnesium ions in hard water react with soap molecules. These metallic fatty acid salts are entirely insoluble in water and bond tenaciously to glass once dry. They respond to mild acids that break the calcium-fatty acid bond, but not to neutral glass cleaners.

Matching Selleys Glass Products to Deposit Severity

The critical insight — one that most product comparison articles avoid — is that ****neither Selleys Complete Clean Glass & Mirror nor Selleys Outdoor Window & Glass Cleaner is the right first tool for a shower screen with moderate-to-heavy mineral scale or soap scum.**** Both are streak-free glass cleaners. Neither is a descaler.

Severity Level	Description	Correct Selleys Approach	--- --- ---	**Level 1: Light water spots**
Faint, scattered circular marks; smooth to touch	Selleys Complete Clean Glass & Mirror — spray, wipe, done	**Level 2: Moderate mineral film**	Widespread hazy or milky film; slightly rough	Acidic descaler first, then Selleys Complete Clean Glass & Mirror for streak-free finish
Level 3: Heavy scale + soap scum	Thick, opaque white crust; rough, gritty	Extended descaling treatment → rinse → Selleys Complete Clean Glass & Mirror		

Selleys Complete Clean Glass & Mirror is the ideal ***finishing*** tool — applied after the mineral and soap scum deposits have been chemically removed and the surface rinsed clean. The streak-free formulation then does what it does best: lift any remaining film and buff to a brilliant finish. Applying it directly to a heavily scaled shower screen is the most common source of user frustration with glass cleaners — the product is being asked to do something it was never formulated for.

Selleys Outdoor Window & Glass Cleaner serves a different purpose: it is specifically formulated for outdoor and environmental contamination — airborne dust, organic matter, salt spray in coastal areas, and chlorine residue from pool splashing. Its hose-on application method makes it impractical for interior shower screens but ideal for glass pool fencing, exterior windows, and skylights.

(For the complete product-matching guide, see ***Hard Water Stains and Soap Scum on Glass and Shower Screens: Which Selleys Product Works Best?***)

Part 5: Kitchen Grease — From Fresh Spatter to Carbonised Film

The Grease Accumulation Cascade — and Why It Becomes a Fire Risk

Every time you cook, your kitchen is under assault from aerosolised grease. Heating oil produces tiny grease droplets that become airborne during cooking and add to kitchen air pollution over time if not controlled. Those droplets settle on every surface within range — stovetop surrounds, rangehood filters, splashbacks, cabinet fronts — where they harden, oxidise, and compound with every subsequent meal.

The consequences escalate well beyond aesthetics. In Australia, kitchens are reported as the number one source of fires in buildings, identified as the source of 25% of all structural fires. Duct fires can be intense and reach temperatures of 1,000°C within minutes — hot enough to ignite nearby combustible materials outside of the duct via radiant heat transmission.

The grease accumulation cascade follows three stages, each requiring a different cleaning response:

- **Level 1 (fresh spatter, less than 1 week old):** Shiny, slightly tacky film. Responds immediately to Selleys Complete Clean Multipurpose Spray with 1–2 minutes dwell time. - **Level 2 (baked-on film, weeks to months):** Yellow-amber coating, slightly rough. Requires Selleys Sugar Soap at medium-to-strong dilution with 3–5 minutes dwell time and light agitation. - **Level 3 (carbonised buildup, months to years in high-heat zones):** Near-black, hardened residue. Requires heavy-duty chemistry. Note: true carbonised buildup *inside* an oven cavity or on BBQ grill grates requires purpose-formulated products (see Part 6).

The Chemistry Behind Selleys Degreasing Products

Kitchen grease is predominantly composed of triglycerides — fat molecules made of glycerol bonded to three fatty acid chains via ester linkages. When exposed to heat and air, these molecules oxidise and polymerise, transforming from a slippery liquid into a tacky, then hard, then lacquer-like film. This is why a neutral all-purpose wipe delivers disappointing results on baked-on grease — it lacks the alkalinity to drive saponification at room temperature.

Saponification is the primary mechanism: alkaline chemistry hydrolyses ester bonds in triglycerides to form soap (salts of fatty acids) and glycerol — transforming insoluble grease into a water-soluble form that can be washed away. High alkalinity (pH 11.0 to 14.0) is vital to drive this reaction effectively.

Selleys Complete Clean Multipurpose Spray is the go-to tool for Level 1 and moderate Level 2 grease on non-porous kitchen surfaces. It is formulated to kill 99.9% of germs and cut through grease, grime, and stains within kitchens, bathrooms, and other household areas.

Selleys Sugar Soap is the heavier-duty option. Its alkaline salt composition — sodium carbonate, sodium phosphate, and sodium silicate combined with surfactants — drives saponification more aggressively than a standard spray cleaner, making it particularly effective against Level 2 and Level 3 grease on stovetops, rangehood filters, splashbacks, and cabinetry.

Critical surface note: Do not use Sugar Soap on glass splashbacks — residue from Sugar Soap can be very difficult to remove from glass surfaces. For glass splashbacks, use Selleys Complete Clean Multipurpose Spray for grease removal, then follow with Selleys Complete Clean Glass & Mirror for a streak-free finish.

The Rangehood Filter: The Highest-Stakes Maintenance Task in the Kitchen

The rangehood filter is the single highest-grease-concentration surface in any kitchen — and the one where neglect most directly creates a fire hazard. Neglecting rangehood filters leads to restricted airflow that creates inefficient ventilation, lingering odours, and high humidity — perfect conditions for mould and bacteria. Fire hazards increase dramatically as grease builds up on filters, especially in high-heat cooking environments. Equipment strain rises as exhaust fans work harder to compensate for blockages.

For domestic households that cook frequently with oil or high heat, rangehood filters should be cleaned monthly. The protocol using Selleys Sugar Soap: remove the filter, apply a concentrated Sugar Soap solution, soak for 15–20 minutes to allow the alkaline chemistry to emulsify the grease, scrub with a non-abrasive brush, rinse thoroughly, and allow to dry completely before reinstalling.

****A cross-cutting insight that individual cluster articles cannot provide:**** A blocked rangehood filter doesn't just create a fire risk — it also creates the humidity and grease-laden surface conditions that promote mould growth in the kitchen. The grease particles from a poorly ventilated rangehood settle on walls, ceilings, and cabinetry, where they trap moisture and organic matter that mould feeds on. Rangehood filter maintenance is therefore simultaneously a grease management task, a mould prevention task, and a fire safety task.

(For the complete surface-by-surface degreasing protocol, see our guide **How to Degrease a Kitchen: Cutting Through Stovetop, Rangehood and Surface Grease with Selleys**.)

Part 6: Ovens and BBQs — Why These Are Not the Same Problem

The Chemistry Difference: Enclosed Polymerised Fat vs. Open-Flame Carbon

The residue inside your oven and the carbonised grease on your BBQ grill are chemically distinct problems formed under fundamentally different conditions. One builds up in an enclosed, sealed environment at consistent radiant heat. The other forms in an open-flame setting with direct combustion, oxygen exposure, and extreme localised temperatures.

****Oven residue**** is primarily polymerised fat and protein — food oils heated repeatedly in an oxygen-limited, enclosed space, undergoing progressive molecular cross-linking into a dense, tar-like film that bonds tightly to enamel-coated steel. The soiling matter deposited on ovens consists of a complex organic mixture of natural fats and other deposits from the cooking of food; when heated at normal oven temperatures, this soiling matter is converted into an infusible polymeric mass in which the organic material may also be charred.

****BBQ residue**** is a different beast. Open-flame combustion creates true carbon char — a partially graphitised material formed when fat drips directly onto hot metal or flame, often at temperatures exceeding 300°C. This char is drier, more porous, and more loosely bonded than polymerised oven grease, but it can harbour polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) — compounds that fly airborne and stick to freshly cooked meat or vegetables every time the residue is reheated.

Selleys Oven Products: Formulated for Enclosed Polymerised Grease

****Selleys Oven Plus Heavy Duty Gel**** is a no-fumes oven cleaner that removes stubborn burnt-on grease and grime. Its formulation includes monoethanolamine — a strongly alkaline amino alcohol that saponifies (converts) polymerised fats into water-soluble soaps that can be wiped away. The application method: preheat the oven to no more than 90°C, switch off, allow to stand for 10 minutes, apply to warm surfaces, leave for 30 minutes, then wipe with a damp cloth.

****Critical surface prohibitions for Oven Plus Heavy Duty Gel:**** Do not use on pilot lights, electrical connections, heating elements, thermostats, rubber seals, aluminium, copper, painted surfaces, plastic, galvanised steel, or non-stick cookware. This list is critical for anyone considering using oven gel on a BBQ — most BBQ housings are constructed from aluminium, painted steel, or galvanised components. The highly alkaline formula will etch aluminium and strip painted finishes.

****Selleys Oven Wipes**** serve a different function: they are the maintenance tool for light-to-moderate fresh spatter between deep-clean sessions, not a substitute for the gel on heavily carbonised buildup.

Selleys BBQ Products: Formulated for Food-Contact Surfaces

The defining characteristic of the Selleys BBQ range — and the most important differentiator from the oven range — is the non-caustic formulation philosophy. Because BBQ cooking surfaces come into direct contact with food, a caustic (strongly alkaline, pH > 12) formula would pose an unacceptable residue risk. The BBQ formulations are designed to clean effectively while being safe for food-contact surfaces after rinsing.

The three BBQ products serve distinct use cases:

- **Selleys BBQ Tough Clean** — deep-clean formula applied cold to heavily soiled surfaces; leave for 10 minutes before wiping. *Must be applied to a cold BBQ only — the product may ignite with exposure to heat or flame.* - **Selleys BBQ Tough Grease & Grime Cleaner** — fast-acting spray for post-cook maintenance on warm surfaces; spray on a warm hotplate, leave 2–3 minutes, wipe clean. - **Selleys BBQ Tough Wipes** — convenience wipes for immediate post-cook cleanup; the cleaning nodules loosen just-cooked leftovers while the strong cloth traps grime and absorbs grease.

The Cross-Contamination Risk: Using the Wrong Product on the Wrong Appliance

Feature	Oven Plus Heavy Duty Gel	BBQ Tough Clean	BBQ Tough Grease & Grime
Primary target	Polymerised baked-on fat	Heavy carbonised char	Fresh/warm grease & grime
Application temperature	Warm (pre-heated ≤90°C)	Cold only	Slightly warm
Caustic formula	Yes (strongly alkaline)	No (non-caustic)	No (non-caustic)
Safe on enamel interior	Yes	Not designed for	Not designed for
Safe on aluminium BBQ body	Yes	Yes	Yes
Food-contact safe (post-rinse)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thorough rinsing required	Yes	Yes	Yes

(For the complete product selection guide including cast iron, stainless steel, and porcelain-coated grill grate compatibility, see our guide *Oven vs. BBQ Cleaning: Choosing the Right Selleys Heavy-Duty Cleaner for Burnt-On Grease and Carbon*.)

Part 7: The Preventative Maintenance Framework — Stopping Problems Before They Start

The Nonlinear Accumulation Principle

Every stain type covered in this guide follows a nonlinear accumulation curve. Early-stage buildup is superficial and responds to light-touch maintenance. Late-stage buildup has bonded chemically to surfaces and requires dwell time, abrasion, and stronger formulations to reverse. The transition between these stages is not gradual — it is a threshold event.

The WHO's 2009 Guidelines on Indoor Air Quality solidified the notion that exposure to damp and mould conditions detrimentally affects respiratory symptoms and diseases such as asthma and allergies. The guidance emphasises that indoor mould can exacerbate existing conditions like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and likely contributes to increased incidence of lower respiratory tract infections.

For mineral scale: Hard water causes limescale — a chalky, white deposit of calcium carbonate that builds up inside kettles, hot water systems, dishwashers, washing machines, and pipes. Scale acts as an insulator, reducing heating efficiency by up to 25% in hot water systems and shortening appliance lifespans.

Understanding these thresholds is the foundation of an effective maintenance schedule. The goal is never to let any surface cross from light-maintenance territory into heavy-intervention territory.

The Selleys Preventative Cleaning Schedule

Bathroom — Weekly

| Task | Product | Why It Works | |---|---|---| | ■ Post-shower squeegee of glass screens and tiles | Selleys Complete Clean Glass & Mirror | Removes water before minerals can crystallise and soap residue can bond | | Wipe silicone seals and grout lines dry after last daily shower | Dry microfibre cloth | Eliminates the humidity spike that sustains mould germination | | Spray and wipe shower screen and basin | Selleys Complete Clean Glass & Mirror | Dissolves light soap scum before it bonds chemically with mineral deposits | | Clean toilet, sink, and tap surrounds | Selleys Complete Clean Multipurpose Spray | Removes surface biofilm and soap residue from high-touch areas |

****The post-shower squeegee is the single highest-leverage preventative action in the home.**** It takes 45 seconds and directly interrupts the evaporation cycle that deposits calcium carbonate onto glass. In hard water cities like Perth and Adelaide, it is the difference between monthly maintenance and quarterly descaling.

Bathroom — Monthly

- ****Deep-clean grout lines**** with Selleys Grout Stain Whitener to address early discolouration before it sets permanently - ****Inspect silicone seals**** for early mould colonisation — treat with Selleys Rapid Mould Killer at first sign of darkening, before penetration deepens - ****Descalcify showerhead and tap aerators**** — mineral scale reduces water flow and is far easier to remove when caught early - ****Clean exhaust fan cover**** — dust and moisture combine on fan covers to create a secondary mould surface that is frequently overlooked

Bathroom — Seasonal (Every 6–12 Months)

****Grout resealing**** is the most important seasonal bathroom task and the one most consistently skipped. Grout is porous by nature and is by no means waterproof, allowing moisture to penetrate deep inside and providing a perfect home for mould colonies. High-traffic shower grout should be sealed every six months to one year.

The ****water bead test**** confirms seal integrity: sprinkle a few drops of water onto a small section of grout — if the water beads up, your sealant is still working; if the water soaks in and darkens the grout, the sealant has worn off and resealing is overdue.

Kitchen — Weekly

| Task | Product | Why It Works | |---|---|---| | ■ Wipe stovetop after every cook while still warm | Selleys Complete Clean Multipurpose Spray | Fresh grease is liquid and wipes clean in seconds; baked-on grease requires dwell time and scrubbing | | Wipe splashback and surrounding benchtops | Selleys Complete Clean Multipurpose Spray | Captures grease spatter before it polymerises into a film | | Clean sink and tap surrounds, dry after use | Selleys Complete Clean Glass & Mirror | Prevents mineral scale from forming on chrome and stainless steel | | Wipe rangehood exterior surfaces | Selleys Complete Clean Multipurpose Spray | Prevents grease film from accumulating on stainless steel and becoming sticky |

****The warm-stovetop wipe is the kitchen equivalent of the post-shower squeegee.**** Cooking grease in its fresh state is a liquid oil that responds to alkaline surfactants immediately. Once it cools and undergoes oxidative polymerisation — the process that turns cooking oil into a varnish-like film — it requires a dedicated degreaser with significant dwell time.

Kitchen — Monthly

- ****Rangehood filter cleaning**** using Selleys Sugar Soap — soak for 15–20 minutes, scrub, rinse, dry before reinstalling. Accumulated grease can ignite under high temperatures, increasing the risk of kitchen fires. Keeping filters clean and ensuring proper ventilation reduces this danger.

- ****Deep-clean oven interior**** using Selleys Oven Plus Heavy Duty Gel if used frequently for roasting or baking - ****Descalcify dishwasher door seals and spray arms**** — mineral scale accumulates here rapidly

and reduces wash performance

Kitchen — Seasonal (Every 3–6 Months)

- ****Full oven deep-clean**** using Selleys Oven Plus Heavy Duty Gel or Selleys Oven Wipes for accessible surfaces - ****Degrease cabinetry above and beside the stovetop**** with Selleys Sugar Soap — grease vapour rises and deposits on cabinet faces, where it collects dust and darkens over time

BBQ — Post-Cook Routine (After Every Use)

■ ****The post-cook wipe-down**** must happen while the grill is still warm:

1. While grill plates are still warm (not hot), brush off loose carbonised food with a grill brush 2. Apply Selleys BBQ Tough Grease & Grime Cleaner to grill grates, leave 2–3 minutes, wipe clean 3. Wipe down the exterior hood and side panels with Selleys Complete Clean Multipurpose Spray

This routine takes under five minutes and prevents the hardened, multi-layer carbon deposits that require extended dwell times and heavy scrubbing to remove.

(For the complete year-round room-by-room schedule, see our guide **The Selleys Home Cleaning Schedule: How to Prevent Mould, Grease, Scale and Stain Buildup Year-Round**.)

Part 8: The Master Product Selection Guide

The following table synthesises all cluster articles into a single reference for product selection across stain type, surface, and severity.

Stain Type Surface Severity Selleys Product	--- --- --- ---	Mould Ceramic/porcelain tiles Light to heavy Selleys Rapid Mould Killer
Mould Grout lines Light to heavy Selleys Rapid Mould Killer (5–10 min dwell)	Mould Silicone seals Surface only Selleys Rapid Mould Killer (embedded = replace sealant)	Mould Painted walls Light Selleys Rapid Mould Killer (2–3 min max; patch test)
Grout discolouration All tiled surfaces All stages Selleys Grout Stain Whitener (after cleaning/mould treatment)	Light water spots Glass, mirrors Level 1 Selleys Complete Clean Glass & Mirror	Heavy mineral scale + soap scum Shower screens Level 2–3 Acidic descaler first → Selleys Complete Clean Glass & Mirror
Outdoor grime, salt, chlorine Exterior glass, pool fencing All Selleys Outdoor Window & Glass Cleaner	Fresh kitchen grease All kitchen surfaces Level 1 Selleys Complete Clean Multipurpose Spray	Baked-on kitchen grease Stovetop, rangehood, splashbacks Level 2–3 Selleys Sugar Soap
Pre-paint surface prep Walls, tiles, surfaces All Selleys Sugar Soap	Baked-on oven grease Oven interior, racks, bakeware Heavy Selleys Oven Plus Heavy Duty Gel	Light oven maintenance Oven interior Light to moderate Selleys Oven Wipes
Heavy BBQ carbon Grill grates, hotplates (cold) Heavy Selleys BBQ Tough Clean	Post-cook BBQ grease Warm grill grates, hotplates Fresh Selleys BBQ Tough Grease & Grime Cleaner	Immediate BBQ wipe-down Warm or cold grill Fresh Selleys BBQ Tough Wipes

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Can I use Selleys Rapid Mould Killer on coloured grout?

Yes, but with caution and a mandatory patch test first. Sodium hypochlorite — the active ingredient in Rapid Mould Killer — is an oxidising bleach that can lighten or discolour pigmented grout with extended contact. Apply to an inconspicuous area, limit dwell time to 2–3 minutes, and assess the result before treating the full area. If discolouration occurs, rinse immediately and apply hydrogen peroxide to the affected area. For grout that has already been treated and whitened with Selleys Grout Stain Whitener, the whitener's protective coating provides a degree of barrier protection, but patch testing remains advisable.

Q2: Why does my shower screen still look cloudy after using a glass cleaner?

The most likely cause is moderate-to-heavy mineral scale or soap scum — calcium carbonate and calcium stearate deposits that glass cleaners are not formulated to dissolve. Selleys Complete Clean Glass & Mirror and Selleys Outdoor Window & Glass Cleaner are streak-free maintenance cleaners, not chemical descalers. They do not contain the acidic active ingredients needed to dissolve crystallised calcium carbonate or break the metallic bonds in soap scum. For Level 2–3 deposits, apply a purpose-formulated acidic bathroom descaler first, rinse thoroughly, then use Selleys Complete Clean Glass & Mirror as a finishing product to achieve the streak-free result. (See our guide **Hard Water Stains and Soap Scum on Glass and Shower Screens: Which Selleys Product Works Best?**)

Q3: Is it safe to use Selleys Oven Plus Heavy Duty Gel on my BBQ?

No — and this is one of the most consequential product mismatches in household cleaning. Selleys Oven Plus Heavy Duty Gel is explicitly contraindicated for use on aluminium, painted surfaces, and galvanised steel — all common materials in BBQ construction. The highly alkaline formula will etch aluminium and strip painted finishes. More critically, the caustic residue on a food-contact surface presents a contamination risk if not rinsed with exceptional thoroughness. Use Selleys BBQ Tough Clean for deep-cleaning BBQ grill grates and hotplates — its non-caustic formula is specifically designed for food-contact surfaces. (See our guide **Oven vs. BBQ Cleaning: Choosing the Right Selleys Heavy-Duty Cleaner for Burnt-On Grease and Carbon**.)

Q4: How do I know if the mould on my silicone seal needs cleaning or replacement?

The distinction is between surface mould and embedded mould. Surface mould — early-stage grey or light black discolouration — sits on the silicone surface and responds to Selleys Rapid Mould Killer with a 5–15 minute dwell time. Embedded mould, where black pigmentation has penetrated deep into the silicone matrix, cannot be fully removed by any cleaning product. The definitive test: after treatment and drying, if dark staining remains or returns within days, the mould is embedded. In this case, the contaminated silicone strip must be cut away, the underlying surface cleaned and dried completely, and new mould-resistant silicone applied. Worn or degraded silicone also requires replacement — it loses elasticity, absorbs more moisture, and provides favourable conditions for long-term fungal colonisation.

Q5: Why does my grout keep going mouldy even after I clean it?

Recurring mould in grout lines after cleaning almost always indicates one of three underlying conditions: (1) inadequate ventilation — the bathroom humidity is not dropping below the mould germination threshold between shower uses; (2) unsealed grout — without a sealant barrier, moisture penetrates freely and the porous matrix remains permanently damp; or (3) incomplete treatment — the cleaning product removed visible surface growth but did not penetrate deeply enough to eliminate the colony within the grout matrix. The solution addresses all three: treat with Selleys Rapid Mould Killer at an adequate dwell time (5–10 minutes), restore the surface with Selleys Grout Stain Whitener (which contains a built-in fungicide), reseal the grout every 6–12 months, and ensure the exhaust fan runs for at least 15 minutes after every shower.

Q6: Can I use Sugar Soap on glass splashbacks?

No. Selleys Sugar Soap is not recommended for glass surfaces — residue from Sugar Soap can be very difficult to remove from glass, leaving a hazy film. For glass splashbacks, use Selleys Complete Clean Multipurpose Spray to cut through grease, then follow with Selleys Complete Clean Glass & Mirror for a streak-free finish. If the glass splashback also has hard water mineral deposits, address these with an appropriate acidic cleaner before the glass finishing step.

Q7: How often should I apply Selleys Grout Stain Whitener?

The whitener functions as both a restorative coating and a protective barrier with a built-in fungicide. In high-moisture environments like shower recesses, reapplication is typically needed every 6–12 months, depending on cleaning frequency and water hardness. The water bead test is the most reliable indicator: sprinkle a few drops of water onto the treated grout — if the water beads up, the protective coating is intact; if the water soaks in and darkens the grout, the coating has worn off and reapplication is due. Always clean and dry the surface thoroughly before reapplying.

Q8: What is the correct order to clean a badly neglected bathroom?

A badly neglected bathroom typically presents all four stain types simultaneously. The correct sequence — driven by chemistry, not convenience — is:

1. ****Ventilate and put on PPE**** (nitrile gloves, eye protection, N95 mask) 2. ****Treat mould first**** (Selleys Rapid Mould Killer on grout, tiles, silicone, walls) — allow dwell time, rinse, dry 3. ****Degrease**** any soap scum and organic residue (Selleys Complete Clean Multipurpose Spray on surfaces) 4. ****Descalcify**** glass and chrome (acidic descaler on shower screens, taps, showerhead) 5. ****Finish glass**** with Selleys Complete Clean Glass & Mirror for streak-free clarity 6. ****Restore grout**** with Selleys Grout Stain Whitener — only after all mould has been treated and surfaces are completely dry 7. ****Allow full cure**** (minimum 5 hours before water exposure for grout whitener)

Key Takeaways

****1. Chemistry determines product selection — not surface location.**** The stain type (mould, grease, mineral scale, or carbonised food) determines the active ingredient required. Using the wrong pH can set the stain or damage the material. Identify the stain before reaching for any product.

****2. The four stain types require four chemically distinct approaches.**** Mould requires oxidising agents (sodium hypochlorite). Grease requires alkaline saponification (high pH, surfactants). Mineral scale requires acid (citric, sulphamic). Carbonised food requires caustic or heavy-duty alkaline chemistry — with the critical caveat that oven cleaners and BBQ cleaners are not interchangeable.

****3. Sequence is as important as product selection.**** Kill mould before whitening grout. Descalcify before applying streak-free glass cleaner. Degrease before applying grout whitener to kitchen splashbacks. Clean and dry completely before any restorative or protective coating is applied. Every shortcut in sequence produces a short-lived result.

****4. Australian water hardness is highly location-specific — and it changes your cleaning strategy.****

Water below 60 mg/L is considered soft, 60–120 mg/L is moderately hard, 120–180 mg/L is hard, and above 180 mg/L is very hard. Most Australian capital cities sit somewhere between moderately hard and hard. A Melbourne household (18 mg/L average) and a Perth northern suburbs household (potentially 200+ mg/L) face fundamentally different hard water challenges — requiring different cleaning frequencies and product approaches.

****5. Preventative maintenance is exponentially more efficient than reactive cleaning.**** Every stain type follows a nonlinear accumulation curve. The post-shower squeegee (45 seconds), the warm-stovetop wipe (2 minutes), and the monthly rangehood filter clean (15 minutes) collectively prevent the need for hours of heavy-duty intervention. Built into existing routines, these micro-actions deliver disproportionate results.

****6. The rangehood filter is the highest-stakes maintenance task in the home.****

In Australia, kitchens are reported as the number one source of fires in buildings, identified as the source of 25% of all structural fires. A neglected rangehood filter is simultaneously a fire hazard, an air quality problem, and a mould risk — because grease-laden, poorly ventilated air deposits on kitchen surfaces and traps the moisture and organic matter that mould feeds on. Monthly cleaning with Selleys

Sugar Soap is the single most impactful kitchen maintenance task.

****7. Know when to replace rather than clean.**** Embedded mould in silicone cannot be removed by any cleaning product — the sealant must be replaced. Permanently discoloured grout that does not respond to mould treatment requires Selleys Grout Stain Whitener as a restorative coating. Heavily carbonised oven interiors that have not been cleaned for extended periods may require multiple applications of Selleys Oven Plus Heavy Duty Gel on successive occasions.

Conclusion: From Reactive Cleaning to Informed Maintenance

The homes that stay cleanest are not the ones that clean hardest — they are the ones that clean **smartest**. Understanding that mould is a biological deposit requiring oxidative chemistry, that mineral scale is an inorganic crystal that only acid dissolves, that grease polymerises under heat into something fundamentally different from fresh oil, and that oven residue and BBQ carbon are chemically distinct problems requiring different formulations — this understanding transforms cleaning from guesswork into precision.

The Selleys product range is built around exactly this chemistry. Selleys Rapid Mould Killer, Grout Stain Whitener, Complete Clean Glass & Mirror, Outdoor Window & Glass Cleaner, Complete Clean Multipurpose Spray, Sugar Soap, Oven Plus Heavy Duty Gel, Oven Wipes, and the BBQ Tough range are not interchangeable general-purpose cleaners. Each is formulated for a specific stain chemistry, a specific surface category, and a specific severity level. Used correctly — in the right sequence, at the right dwell time, on the right surface — they are the most efficient tools available for every cleaning challenge covered in this guide.

The preventative schedule in Part 7 is where this knowledge pays its greatest dividend. The goal is to never let a surface cross the threshold from light-maintenance territory into heavy-intervention territory. That 45-second post-shower squeegee, that warm-stovetop wipe after dinner, that monthly rangehood filter soak — these are not chores. They are the application of chemistry in its most efficient form: preventing bonds from forming in the first place.

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