

u p k e e p

issue four

a newsletter from southwestern seminary's facilities maintenance department

fort worth, tx

Cleaning Made Easy

by Jamie Knight, Make Ready Supervisor

Raise your hand if you like cleaning. I am sure not many people will say that they enjoy cleaning. However, cleaning can be made easy if you use the right products and know the right techniques.

Cleaning your home on a regular basis is the easiest way to get the job done. However, if you put it off until later, like many of us choose to do, a quick five minute wipe down becomes two hours of deep scrubbing. For more than five years, I have supervised a team of student workers who clean vacant apartments to make them ready for new students to move in. As a result of cleaning hundreds of apartments each year, we have learned a few tips that make the job easier.

This issue of *Upkeep* is dedicated to sharing these tips with you. You will also find a pictorial list of cleaning products that have been approved by Facilities Maintenance to use, all of which are available for purchase at retail stores like Walmart, Kroger, etc.

WE USE CLOTH DISH TOWELS INSTEAD OF PAPER TOWELS FOR CLEANING. IT SAVES MONEY BECAUSE THEY CAN BE WASHED AND REUSED. IT IS GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

Oven Tip: We use an oven cleaner like *EASY-OFF Fume Free Max*, a stainless steel scrubbing pad like *Chore Boy Stainless Steel Scrubbers*, and an all purpose cleaner like *Formula 409* to clean the oven. Spray the inside of the oven with *EASY-OFF Fume Free Max* oven cleaner and let it set for about 15 minutes before scrubbing with the *Chore Boy Stainless Steel Scrubbers*. We usually spray the oven first and let it soak while we clean the outside of the stove. The oven will be ready to be scrubbed by time you finish cleaning the outside of the stove. Once the oven has been scrubbed, wipe it clean with a cloth towel or paper towel. Then clean the oven again with an all purpose cleaner like *Formula 409* to remove the white residue that will be caused by the oven cleaner. While most oven cleaners can burn your skin with prolonged exposure, we choose to use *EASY-OFF Fume Free Max* because we have not experienced burning to skin while using this product. However, you should always use safety latex gloves while using oven cleaners.

Refrigerator Tip: We use an all purpose cleaner like *Formula 409* to clean the refrigerator. First, turn the temperature control on the freezer to 0 to prevent the cleaner from freezing while attempting to clean. Then clean out the refrigerator and freezer, disposing of any items you are not going to keep. Next, using an all purpose cleaner like *Formula 409*, clean the inside of the refrigerator. Repeat this process in the freezer. Do not forget to reset the temperature to a medium setting.



Bathtub Tip: We use *Comet Bathroom Cleaner* and *Mr. Clean Magic Eraser* to remove soap scum. Spray *Comet Bathroom Cleaner* on the tub and let stand for ten minutes before wiping with a cloth towel or paper towel. For tubs with heavy soap scum build-up, use *Comet Bathroom Cleaner* with a *Mr. Clean Magic Eraser* to help remove the soap scum. Rinse with water once the soap scum is removed.

Window Blind Tip: We use *Swiffer Dusters* to clean window blinds. In most cases, *Swiffer Dusters* will easily remove the dust from the blinds. If you are unable to remove the dust using *Swiffer Dusters*, try using a dusting cloth.

Maintenance Requests ♦ 817-923-1921, ext. 2290

Call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week | Maintenance Repairs | Pest and Rodent Control | There is someone ready to answer your call!

Facilities Maintenance ♦ Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
PO Box 22240 | Fort Worth, Texas 76122 | 817-923-1921, ext. 7700

Approved Cleaning Products

This pictorial list of cleaning products has been approved by Facilities Maintenance because, according to our experience, they get the job done without damaging surfaces being cleaned. These items are available at most retail stores like Walmart, Kroger, etc.



Chore Boy Stainless Steel Scrubbers
Uses: ovens



EASY-OFF Fume Free Max
Uses: ovens



Safety Latex Gloves
Uses: ovens, general use



Formula 409 Cleaner
Uses: all purpose cleaner



Comet Bathroom Cleaner
Uses: bath tub soap scum, shower doors



Murphy Oil Soap
Uses: hardwood floors



Mr. Clean Magic Eraser
Uses: bath tubs, shower doors,
counter tops, appliances, walls



Swiffer Dusters
Uses: window blinds, ceiling fans,
furniture, general dusting



Cloth Towels
Using cloth towels instead of
paper towels saves money.