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Cleaning Guide for Vinyl

PVC material is a low-maintenance product that will not rot, crack, peel, or need to be painted. But even low-maintenance products can get dirty. In order to maintain the elegant look of new vinyl, your vinyl product will need occasional cleaning.

General Cleaning

General vinyl cleaning can be done using soap and water or a mild household detergent that is approved for use on plastics or vinyl. All purpose citrus-based cleaners and degreasers also work well. Be sure to use a soft non-abrasive cloth to clean.

If using a pressure washer, make certain it is set to the manufacturer's recommended setting for vinyl to avoid damage. (Always read the pressure washer manufacturer's instructions.)

Persistent Stains

Some stains or marks—such as rubber marks, permanent markers, paint, oil, tar, nail polish, or gum—will persist after washing. Another persistent mark that often concerns homeowners is artillery fungus, also known as shotgun mold. This surface-only fungus appears as a series of small black dots and is known to be spread by landscape mulch.

When dealing with these persistent stains and marks, do not resort to an abrasive cloth, pad, or cleaner that could scratch the vinyl. The best solution for persistent stains is to use a melamine foam cleaning pad such as the Mr. Clean® Magic Eraser® or Scotch-Brite™ Easy Eraser. Only apply as much pressure as is needed to remove the stain, particularly on new vinyl because excessive rubbing will remove the glossy shine. If a melamine foam pad does not remove the stain or mark, use a tough spot remover product that is approved for use on outdoor vinyl. For example, Goof Off™ works very well.

Restoring Dull Spots

After cleaning vinyl, you may find dull spots where some of the glossy shine of (particularly newly installed) vinyl has been rubbed off. To restore these dull spots, try wiping with a clean damp cloth. If dull spots still show, dry the surface and apply a non-abrasive outdoor paste wax such as Armor All® Paste Wax or Johnson® Paste Wax to renew the gloss. Other options include outdoor house wax, automotive wax, or plastic boat polish.

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- ✓ **NEVER** use an abrasive cleaner
 - ✓ **ALWAYS** use a soft non-abrasive cloth
 - ✓ **NEVER** use an abrasive cloth or pad
 - ✓ **ALWAYS** follow cleaning product manufacturer's instructions
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