

REALSIMPLE

| LIFE MADE EASIER |

**AVOID
BIG
MONEY
MISTAKES**
7 SMART
STEPS

A CLEANER HOUSE EVERY DAY

34 easy solutions for any room

**NO-NONSENSE
DIET ADVICE**

**SWIMSUITS
THAT FIT**

**SPRING SIDE
DISHES**



**US
HOW TO
E MORE
CONFIDENT**





The Definitive
Cleaning-Products Road Test

What do you get when you cross 345 sprays, scrubbers, brooms, mops, vacuums, and solutions with a special-forces unit of *Real Simple* testers? Some pristine surfaces, for one, and a resulting cutting-edge arsenal that makes cleaning easier, more fun, and better scented than ever before.

If you dream of a home that sparkles every day, bring on the white gloves—these superstars are hands-down winners.

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best rubber gloves:

Mr. Clean

Latex-free and lined in super-soft cotton, these are so comfortable, you won't want to take them off. And they won't make your hands sweat, even after you've done a load of dishes. Available only in white.

TO BUY: Mr. Clean Bliss gloves, \$4 at retailers nationwide.



everyday
essentials

best all-purpose cleaner:

Planet

The go-to bottle for kitchen cleaning and touch-ups in every room, this unscented spray easily obliterated the mustard and strawberry stains that our testers planted on hard surfaces.*

TO BUY: Planet all-purpose cleaner, \$4, planetinc.com.

best sponge:

Casabella

Quicker to dry than traditional options, super absorbent, and effective without soap. And how about those colors?

TO BUY: Casabella microfiber sponges, \$6 for three, casabella.com.

best scrubber:

E-cloth

Curved to sit nicely in the hand, it pairs a gentle abrasive side with a microfiber surface for wiping.

TO BUY: E-cloth Washing Up pad, \$6, ecloth.com.

best cream cleanser:

Bar Keepers Friend

A 130-year-old classic, it makes faucets, tile, and cookware sparkle and removes mineral stains and rust marks with minimal muscle.

TO BUY: Bar Keepers Friend soft cleanser, \$5 at retailers nationwide.

best paper towels:

Viva

In the old-school strength test (wet paper towel piled with a weighty load of fruit), Viva was the overwhelming winner. It also cleaned an entire kitchen with just one sheet rinsed and wrung out repeatedly. More like cloth than any other brand, this pick is eco-friendly because it offers so much use out of so little product. Our testers liked the choose-a-size option, since half a sheet is plenty for small jobs.

TO BUY: Viva Brand Choose-a-Size paper towels, \$2 a roll, at retailers nationwide.

*In the case of a tie between two cleaning products, *Real Simple* chose the biodegradable option.

microfiber
cleaning cloths



best all-around:

E-cloth

You might assume that all microfiber is created equal. Not so. This winner delivers impressively on the three promises of the category: to serve as a magnet for dust, to clean and shine with plain water (although it's fine to use a solution if you prefer), and to stand up to the washing machine. E-cloths are guaranteed to last through 300 washes—just don't use dryer sheets, bleach, or fabric softeners, because they're kryptonite to microfiber. Testers loved the purple general-purpose cloth but couldn't resist the color-coded variants: stiffer or softer options for stainless steel, glass, and cooktops.

TO BUY: E-cloth microfiber cloths, \$8 each, ecloth.com.

best washable mop:

E-cloth

With a large, smooth-swirling 360-degree head and an extra-long telescoping pole, this tool makes mopping a Fred Astaire moment. Effective with plain water or your favorite solution. Toss the microfiber head in the washer and dryer when done (no dryer sheets, bleach, or softener, please).

TO BUY: E-cloth Deep Clean mop, \$40, ecloth.com.

best broom:

Casabella

The barely-there curve of the pole makes for more comfortable sweeping. For smaller jobs, press the orange button to release the head. Voilà—it's a whisk broom! Ridges on the sides of the pan help comb debris out of the bristles. Click the pan in place for easy storage.

Cute enough to stay out. **TO BUY:** Casabella Ergo Broom 2 & Dustpan set, \$25, casabella.com.

best disposable mop:

Swiffer

These magically magnetic dry cloths on a lightweight pole are still unrivaled—nothing made our testers feel quite so empowered to go after high-flying cobwebs. The wet-mop cloths leave floors with a subtle sheen.

TO BUY: Swiffer Sweeper starter kit (includes pole, two dry cloths, and one wet cloth), \$11 at retailers nationwide.

