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# Do You Have Time-Saving Cleaning Tips?

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**A weekly question/answer column**

**Do You Have Time-Saving Cleaning Tips?**

*Leona K. Hawks\* answers:*

Squeegees, vinegar, ice and baking soda are common household commodities, but when put to good use, they can help make daily household chores uncommonly simple. Here are some ideas:

- Vacuum carpets and rugs before you dust. Dust gets suspended in the air when you vacuum, so you'll save time by dusting last.
- Leave a rubber squeegee in the tub or shower area and wipe down the walls after every shower. This prevents soap scum buildup and also reduces the potential for mold growth.
- Remove the scum from bathroom fixtures by making a paste of automatic dishwashing detergent and warm water. Then clean with a soft cloth.
- Throw pillows in the dryer on the air-fluff cycle to fluff them and remove the dust.
- Clean hard water deposits from chrome fixtures and windows with white household vinegar. Moisten the area with vinegar and let sit for 5 minutes, then wipe.
- Clean and deodorize the microwave by stirring 2 tablespoons of lemon juice or baking soda in a bowl of water. Boil on high for 5 minutes, then remove the bowl and wipe down the interior.
- Pets need to be spruced up, too. If you are unable to bathe your pet with shampoo and water, try the dry method by rubbing baking soda into the fur, then brushing.

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