Simple Cleaning

Understanding dirt and odors helps you choose how to clean.

Everyday dirt / goals	Action and common materials
01 **Oil and skin oils** On clothes, dishes and other items	**Surfactants** Help oil mix with water to wash it off Soap and synthetic detergents
02 **Light grease / burnt residue** Kitchen deposits and similar dirt	**Alkalinity / abrasion** Alkalinity for light grease Abrasion for burnt-on residue Baking soda / sodium sesquicarbonate
03 **Limescale / ammonia odors** White deposits / odors from urine	**Acidic action** Remove limescale / reduce ammonia odors Citric acid and similar acids Sometimes used in the rinse when washing with soap.
04 **Colored stains** Tea, coffee and similar stains	**Oxidation (bleaching)** Bleach colored stains Sodium percarbonate (oxygen bleach) Sometimes added to the wash with soap to improve cleaning.
05 **Reducing germs** Frequently touched areas, for example	**Alcohol** Reduce germs on suitable surfaces Disinfectant ethanol, for example

Sodium percarbonate differs from the carbonate used to assist cleaning.

Key points

Check product labels and item / appliance instructions.

Baking soda powder can scratch surfaces.
Do not use baking soda or citric acid on marble.

Use chlorine cleaners alone. Do not mix them with other cleaners or use them in succession.

Keep alcohol away from ignition sources.

Never seal a solution of sodium percarbonate in a container.

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