

10 Reasons to Use Microfiber Cleaning Products



What are microfiber cleaning products?

Microfiber cloth is a velvety, lint-free synthetic material that is very effective for cleaning. Microfiber products include cloths, mops, and dusters. They can be used dry for dusting or soaked in a cleaning solution for washing surfaces.

Microfiber mops have a lightweight handle with a very maneuverable flat rectangular head. Fresh microfiber pads are placed to soak in a basin of cleaning solution. In each room, a clean cloth is taken from the basin, hand wrung out and attached to the mop head. Typically, 1-2 pads are used to clean a room. After use, the soiled pad is easily removed and set aside for laundering. Because used pads are not returned to the basin of cleaning solution, the liquid does not become contaminated or need replenishing. Soiled microfiber clothes are easily cleaned in a washing machine.

Here are 10 reasons to consider microfiber for dusting and mopping:

1. Housekeepers Like Microfiber Dusting and Wet Mopping

Mopping and dusting with microfiber can be efficient, easier and less tiring, so most people prefer microfiber products.

2. Clients Are Happier

Clients like microfiber mopping because it is quieter, faster and less intrusive.

3. Microfiber Dusting and Mopping is Effective

Microfiber is a strong, lint free synthetic fiber. Each fiber is split during manufacturing, and this split structure makes microfiber effective:

- The tiny fibers make the fabric very absorbent, so the cloth or mop holds sufficient water for cleaning, yet doesn't drip. As a result, the pad doesn't need to be replenished and the floor is merely damp and quickly dries after cleaning, rather than being visibly wet.
- The microfibers have a positive charge that attracts dust, which has a negative charge. Dust and dirt particles are not only attracted to the microfiber, but are held tightly and not redistributed around the room.

4. Ease of Use

Overall, the housekeeper is lifting less and maneuvering lighter loads. Microfiber mopping completely eliminates rinsing and wringing a cotton loop or sponge mop. There is a smaller amount of cleaning solution, the water-soaked microfiber mop is considerably lighter than a traditional mop, the basin of cleaning solution is lighter and there is no need to return to the sink to dispose of and replenish buckets of dirty cleaning solution.

5. Less Potential for Injury

- Microfiber mopping uses less water and cleaning products so there is less weight to lift and less potential for fatigue, back pain, neck strain, and other upper body injuries.
- Because the mops are light and maneuverable, the worker can largely avoid awkward and uncomfortable postures.
- The microfiber mops eliminate wringing of the heavy wet loop mop or squeezing of a sponge mop. This is expected to reduce potential for back pain, shoulder, elbow, wrist tendonitis and injury to finger joints.
- Because microfiber holds liquid without dripping, it leaves only a light film of water on the floor which dries quickly, resulting in less opportunity for slips and falls on a wet floor.

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6. Microfiber mops significantly reduce the amount of water and chemicals used.

- With loop or sponge mops, soiled mops are rinsed in the cleaning solution. This makes the cleaning solution dirty and can spread dirt and contamination between rooms if not replenished. With microfiber mops, only clean cloths are soaked in a small volume of cleaning solution. As a result, there is no need to replace the solution, considerably reducing the amount of water and cleaning product used and disposed down the drain.
- Cleaning products often contain hazardous chemicals, such as butoxyethanol, quaternary ammonium compounds and phenols, which can cause respiratory irritation or skin burns. Reducing the volume of cleaners used and frequency of preparation minimizes exposure to these harsh chemicals.

7. Microfiber Mopping Streamlines Tasks and Takes Less Time

- The cleaning solution preparation is reduced considerably because of lower volumes used.
- The need to repeatedly transport, empty, and replenish large buckets of cleaning solution is eliminated.
- Replacing microfiber mop pads takes much less time than rinsing and wringing a loop mop.
- Microfiber mops are easy to manipulate in the room, reducing the mopping time.

8. Microfiber Mopping Can Reduce Costs

- Microfiber cloths and mops are readily available and reasonably priced.
- Unlike paper towels, microfiber cloths are durable and can easily be washed for reuse.
- The reduced volume of cleaning products means lower costs.
- Reduced mopping time frees housekeepers to perform other productive tasks.
- Working conditions are likely to be safer due to the lower potential for injury.
- Eliminating the need for large mop buckets may reduce the storage area needed for supplies.

9. Contamination Hazards Are Reduced

- Cloths and mop heads are easily replaced after every room and set aside for laundering. Because soiled cloths are never returned to the cleaning solution, risk of cross contamination between rooms is eliminated.
- Some housekeepers choose to have different colored clothes for different areas, such as yellow for the kitchen; blue for toilets; orange for tubs, shower, sinks; and green for general dusting.

10. Laundering Resources Are Reduced

Microfiber mop pads can be laundered in standard washing machines, while it is more difficult to clean loop or sponge mops. Microfiber cloths and mop heads require little space in the washers – small load is fine - saving on water, detergent and energy. (Avoid washing microfiber with high-lint materials, like towels, which will clog the microfiber.)

And a Few Cautions...

- Always evaluate new products carefully to assess safety and performance in your own setting.
- You might need to try different manufacturers' products, as they are not all equally effective.
- The number of the mop pads or cloths needed will depend on the room size. Be sure to have an adequate supply.
- Microfiber should not be laundered in industrial machines because high temperatures can damage the material. Use standard washers with mild detergents (no bleach, caustics or harsh cleaners) to protect the microfiber.
- Don't wash or dry microfiber pads with lint generating items (like towels), which will clog the microfiber.

Even if you can't use microfiber products for your clients, consider using them in your own home!

***For more information on cleaning-related topics in home health care, see our fact sheets at:
www.uml.edu/SafeHCFactSheets***

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