

How to Clean Glass With Vinegar

How many times have you heard someone say, "I don't do windows". Cleaning windows may be the most dreaded part of cleaning but it need not be. With the basic window cleaning tools of a professional squeegee and a cleaning solution you are on your way to cleaning success.

Squeegee

The professional squeegee is a necessary tool and well worth the investment. Squeegees are available at most hardware supply stores; look for a professional squeegee featuring a very soft, rubber blade with no imperfections in it. You can also get extra rubber blades and simply replace that when it wears out.



Cleaning Solution

We have found that the best and most economical method of cleaning glass is with a homemade vinegar solution. You may have tried to use vinegar to clean glass in the past and had poor results. Commercial window cleaners will leave a very fine wax residue, a cleaning mixture of vinegar and water alone will often result in streaky windows. To remove this wax residue a simple detergent can be added to the vinegar and water to perfectly clean your windows! A recipe containing 2 cups of water, ¼ cup of white vinegar, and up to ½ teaspoon of liquid soap or detergent in a spray bottle or bucket is ideal. See below for larger batches.

Cleaning

Start with your inside windows first. With tools and cleaning solution ready, it's time to do the work. Generously apply the cleaning solution to the window with a large cloth or clean sponge and wipe down the entire window top to bottom. Before the window dries apply your squeegee by starting at the top of the window, tilt the squeegee, at an angle to the glass, press firmly and with a smooth stroke pull squeegee across glass. Wipe the blade of your squeegee with a damp cloth or "shammy" cloth each time (a dry blade on dry glass will skip). Lapp over in the dry clean area each time. Continue until you have finished the window. Finish by wiping off the window sill and frame.

More helpful hints are:

- Change wash water/cleaning solution often.
- Purchase an automobile "shammy" or chamois type cloth – best for water absorption and it will last for years.
- It is best not to clean windows in direct sunlight - the window will dry too fast and streak so avoid washing windows in the heat.
- Screens can be scrubbed with warm soapy water, then rinsed with clean water and allowed to air dry.

Cleaning Solution Batches:

Small

4 cups water
½ cup of white distilled vinegar
1 tsp. of detergent

Medium

6 cups water
¾ cup of white distilled vinegar
1 ½ tsp. of detergent

Large

12 cups water
1.5 cups of white distilled vinegar
3 tsp. of detergent