



Big Bear Cabin Care
Full Service Mountain Property Care

MOUNTAIN HOME CLEANING TIPS

Slate (Flooring and Showers)

Slate is a type of very fine-grained metamorphic rock which naturally forms in layers. Slate is very porous, even when a sealer is applied, which means some cleaning fluids can stain it, and extremely alkaline solutions can sometimes cause cracks or pits in a slate floor.

The first step is to remove dirt and dust. **Always sweep a slate floor before cleaning** it, and running a dust mop over the floor is highly recommended.

To mop, **the best thing to use is plain hot water**. Dip a clean mop into the hot water, squeeze it to get as much water out as possible, and then run it lightly over the floor, rinsing frequently. **To remove stubborn stains, add some vinegar to the water**; this will also leave the floor with a nice, bright gleam.

Bamboo Flooring

Bamboo is a grass. Multiple squared lengths are bonded together in layers to form "boards" which are in turn milled to a profile resembling hardwood flooring and is top-coated with a durable, clear finish.

Vacuum, then wash floor with a no-rinse, clear drying cleanser such as dish washing liquid mixed with water. Avoid cleaners that contain oil, acidic or caustic ingredients which will leave a cloudy detergent buildup.

Use a good quality micro fiber floor mop. The super fine fabrics soak up and hold dirt and grime, leaving a clean, clear surface that's dry in minutes.

Remove any gummy soiling by applying ice until they become brittle, then giving a scrape.

Granite Countertops

Granite is the most durable of all stones and is formed from volcanic magma; however, it is not impervious to damage.

To clean the surface without leaving streaks, **use only a small amount of warm water with a ph balanced dishwashing liquid.** Use a disinfectant cleanser made specifically for granite when requested.

Use a soft, clean cloth and rinse after washing with the soap solution. Dry with a soft, clean cloth.

Never use harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners. They can scratch, pit, and etch the surface of the stone.

Tips for cleaning stains: Organic stains such as coffee, tea or fruit can be removed by mixing 12% hydrogen peroxide with a couple drops of ammonia. Lacquer thinner or acetone will remove ink or marker stains from darker stone. On light-colored granite, use hydrogen peroxide. This also works for wine stains.

Mirrors

Use a soft, dust free cloth. **Spray cleaners on your rag, not directly on the mirror.** This will help keep the mirror frame dry.

Avoid ammonia solutions, vinegar, or harsh solvents. *(Many old-timers and experts still stand by using vinegar and water, and wiping it clean with newspaper.)*

Cleaning Solutions:

Mix 1/3 cup clear ammonia in 1 gallon warm water. Apply it with a sponge or pour the solution into a spray container, and spray it directly on the rag. Buff with a lint-free cloth, chamois, or paper towel.

Pour vinegar into a shallow bowl or pan, then crumple a sheet of newspaper, dip it in the vinegar, and apply to the mirror. Wipe the glass several times with the same newspaper until the mirror is almost dry. Then shine it with a clean, soft cloth or dry newspaper.

Stainless Appliances and Sinks

For dry cleaning, wipe down the countertop with a microfiber cloth. For wet cleaning, **use a soft cloth and a little mild dish soap**. For occasional tougher cleaning, a mild abrasive can be used.

Rinse the surface, and dry thoroughly with a clean, soft, dry towel. Use stainless steel cleaners for removing fingerprints and smudges.