CLEANING AGENTS

Equipment and materials for household maintenance are used for removing dust and dirt from various articles and surface in the home. As a home maker you should learn about these material and be able to use them very well.

There are also different types of cleaning agent and equipment. Some agent are harmful to one type of surface but good for others. There are also many commercial cleaning agents. Others can be home-made.

Classes of Cleaning Agent

Cleaning agent can be classified as solvents, detergent, abrasives, alkalis, bleaches, polishes and waxes.

Solvents: are substances which remove dirt by liquefying it and holding it suspension e.g. water, grease solvents.

Detergents: synthetic detergent and soap emulsify grease and aid the removal of grease and dirt.

Abrasive cleaners: clean surface by rubbing off dirt through friction e.g. vim, sandpaper.

Alkaline cleaners: combine readily with greasy dirt. They reduce the amount of rubbing needed for cleaning, e.g. borax.

Acidic cleaners: can remove tarnish from copper, e.g. vinegar, lemon or lime juice.

Waxes: are in different forms and brands. They are used to protect surface and improve appearance.

Polishes: are applied to surfaces, such as wood to improve appearance.

Guidelines for the use of cleaning agent

1. Choose the correct cleaning agent for the surface to be cleaned.
2. Read labels and instructions on commercial cleaning agents before use.
3. Follow the directions carefully
4. Avoid wastage
5. Store cleaning agent properly
6. Keep away from reach of children
7. Label all cleaning agent properly
8. Cover the cleaning agent properly