



Overview

Not all cleaners are safe on all surfaces. Using the wrong type of cleaner can result in permanent damage. All water-based chemicals have a pH between 1 and 14. The pH value determines how acidic or basic (alkaline) a product is. Where a product falls on the pH scale determines what cleaning characteristics the product will have.

Acidic Cleaners – 1 to 5 pH

- Remove rust, lime, scale, corrosion and hard water deposits
- Can etch or damage glass, diamond plate, aluminum and marble
- Safe on most plastics and painted surfaces
- Common applications: Bathroom cleaner, concrete etcher and cleaner

Neutral Cleaners – 6 to 9 pH

- Generally a blend of surfactants and soaps
- Remove soil and light grease
- Safe on virtually all surfaces
- Common applications: Glass and waxed floor cleaner, car washes

Alkaline Cleaners – 10 to 13 pH

- Removes grease, soils and dirt
- Blend of water-soluble solvents, surfactants and alkalinity boosters
- Common applications: Cleaning concrete and shop floors, removing ink, washing walls, pressure washer concentrate

Caustic Cleaners – greater than 13 pH

- Contains potassium or sodium hydroxide (main ingredients in common oven cleaners)
- Removes carbon, grease, soils, fats
- Common applications: Pressure washer concentrate, oven cleaner, spray cabinet washer, hot and cold tank cleaner, wastewater treatment, polymer remover

d-Limonene Cleaners

- d-Limonene cleaners are considered solvent-based, do not fall anywhere on the pH scale but can be diluted with water
- Natural solvent derived from distilled orange peels
- Excellent natural degreaser
- Common applications: Removes grease, dirt, soil and adhesives, and works as an asphalt release agent

