

50 BEST NEW CLEANING PRODUCTS

We did the dirty work of interviewing experts and trying out the latest cleaners, tools and gadgets. Help yourself to the top performers. **BY DANIELLE BLUNDELL**

GREEN CLEANERS

1. Better Life All-Purpose Cleaner This mild-scented multitasker is safe on any non-porous surface. Cleanhappens.com, \$7

2. Reliable Steamboy 200CU "Steam is beautiful," says Johnson. "This stick model cleans and sanitizes without chemicals." Reliablecorporation.com, \$99

3. Force of Nature Cleaning and Disinfecting System Transform tap water, salt and vinegar into a potent disinfectant that blasts viruses and bacteria. Forceofnatureclean.com, \$90 for a starter kit

4. The Optimist Co. Bright Side Natural Glass and Surface Cleaner in Tea Tree & Eucalyptus "A solid all-over cleaner for anything except stone," says Rapinchuk. Theoptimistco.com, \$6

5. Method Dish Soap in Honeycrisp Apple "Super sudsy and worked on everyday dishes and even a crusty pan with just a little soaking time," says Rapinchuk. Methodhome.com, \$4.

6. Bona Free and Simple Hardwood Floor Cleaner Achieve spotless wood floors sans harsh dyes, aromas and dulling residue. Bona.com, \$10

7. Better Life Granite and Stone Cleaner Show your counters some love with a formula that's totally food-safe. Cleanhappens.com, \$7

8. Seventh Generation Disinfecting Wipes Awesome for quick touch-ups, crumbs and spills. Seventhgeneration.com, from \$3



FamilyCircle BEST CLEANING PRODUCTS 2016

LAUNDRY PRODUCTS

- 1. Caldrea Linen and Room Spray in Tangelo Palm Frond** A dreamy scent that perks up sheets and comforters in between washes. Caldrea.com, \$10
- 2. Clorox Control Bleach Crystals** When a load calls for bleach, avoid accidental splatters and spills with this water-activated crystalline formula. Walmart.com, \$4
- 3. Tide Pods Plus Febreze in Botanical Rain** Two thumbs up for convenience—these premeasured detergent capsules dissolve in any temperature water. Tide.com for stores, \$9/23-pack
- 4. Downy Fabric Conditioner in April Fresh** Fight wrinkles and static right in the rinse cycle with this reformulated standby. Downy.com for stores, \$7
- 5. Mrs. Meyer's Clean Day Peony Laundry Scent Boosters** For towels with the subtle smell of a fresh bouquet. Mrsmeyers.com, \$10
- 6. All Oxi Mighty Pacs** "Anything that makes laundry easier makes me happy!" says Maker. "I tossed a packet in with a load of cleaning cloths. They came out bright and odor-free." All-laundry.com for stores, \$13/56-pack
- 7. Tide Rescue with Febreze Odor Defense** Extra cleaning muscle in the form of oxygenated bleach packets to refresh stinky sports clothing and exercise gear. Tide.com for stores, \$10/18-pack
- 8. Reliable Pronto 100CH** Talk about double duty—a handheld steamer that smooths out wrinkled clothing and spiffs up windows, tiled surfaces and even grill grates! Reliablecorporation.com, \$99



Our Clean Slate: Meet the Experts

DONNA SMALLIN KUPER Known as the One-Minute Organizer, founder of unclutter.com and most recently the author of *Clear the Clutter, Find Happiness*.

JOLIE KERR The neatnik who produces the weekly cleaning advice column and podcast "Ask a Clean Person" and author of the *New York Times* best-selling book *My Boyfriend Barfed in My Handbag...and Other Things You Can't Ask Martha*.

BECKY RAPINCHUK A green cleaning specialist, creator of cleanmama.net and author of *The Organically Clean Home*.

DEBRA JOHNSON Curriculum manager at Merry Maids (merrymaids.com), where she oversees housekeeper training for 500-plus franchise locations across the country.

MELISSA MAKER The self-proclaimed cleaning ninja behind CleanMySpace.com and YouTube sensation at her Clean My Space channel.



CLEANING TOOLS

- 1. iRobot Roomba 980** An enormous splurge but smart as a whip, this robo-vac docks and recharges itself to clean carpet, hardwood, tile and under furniture with the tap of an app. Irobot.com, \$900
- 2. Pura Naturals Soap & Scrubber Kitchen Sponges in Citrus Burst** "These non-scratch sponges come preloaded with cleanser, and you can add more when they run out," says Smallin Kuper. Puranaturalsproducts.com, \$8.50/3-pack
- 3. Dawn Luxe Premium Latex-Free Gloves** "These felt nice, with a cushion-like interior, and stayed put during dishwashing," says Kerr. Dawn.cleanerhomeliving.com, \$4.50
- 4. Hoover Air Cordless Lift Upright Vacuum** An upright-canister hybrid for the best of both vacuuming worlds. Hoover.com, \$400
- 5. Shark Rotator Powered Lift-Away Speed Vacuum** "A great contender that's fairly lightweight so you can maneuver from hardwood to carpeting and stairs easily," says Maker. Bedbathbeyond.com, \$300
- 6. Dyson V6 Mattress Handheld Vacuum Cleaner** Dust mites meet their match with this cordless powerhouse, a top pick for asthma and allergy sufferers. Dyson.com, \$250
- 7. Casabella Everywhere Duster** Conquer floor-to-ceiling dust with an extra-wide pivoting microfiber head. Casabella.com, \$15
- 8. Mr. Clean Magic Eraser Toilet Scrubber** "Loved it so much I threw out my regular toilet brush!" says Kerr. "Great for getting under the lip of the bowl." Mr.clean.cleanerhomeliving.com, \$9



DEEP CLEANERS

- 1. Rejuvenate Soap Scum Remover** A bleach-free alternative for hard water stains and funky tub film. Homedepot.com, \$8
- 2. Libman Microfiber Sponge Cloths** "Great scrubbers for those tough jobs—use one color for dusting, another for countertop wiping and so on," says Johnson. Libman.com for stores, \$4/3-pack
- 3. Bona PowerPlus Hardwood Floor Deep Cleaner** A must-have for shine in high-traffic areas. Bona.com, \$12
- 4. Oxo Good Grips Extendable Tub and Tile Brush** "With three layers of bristles in front and a swiveling head, this brush goes to town on grout lines and tight corners," says Smallin Kuper. Oxo.com, \$16
- 5. Clorox Kitchen and Bathroom Scrub Singles** Best for battling seriously disgusting messes, such as old spills in the base of a Crock-Pot or stubborn shower gunk. Walmart.com, \$4 for a 14-pack (kitchen) or 12-pack (bathroom)





SPECIALTY CLEANERS

- 1. Rowenta Intense Pure Air** This purifier filters out airborne pollen, bacteria, mold and more. It's the only one on the market that eradicates the dangerous home pollutant formaldehyde. Bedbathbeyond.com, from \$299
- 2. Gold Bros. Stain Rx Wipes** "Removes red wine from cotton like magic," says Smallin Kuper. "Tuck a few in your purse to quickly treat spots on just about anything." Stainrx.com, \$15/box of 18
- 3. Frosch Bio Spirit Glass Cleaner** A light spritz makes easy work of soil deposits on windows. Froschusa.com, \$4.50
- 4. Febreze Fabric Refresher with Tide Original Scent** For fabric couch cushions and carpets reminiscent of fresh laundry—no folding necessary! Febreze.com for info, from \$3.50

- 5. Zep Microwave Miracle Foaming Cleaner** Your microwave (or the communal one at the office) deserves a good cleaning. This steam-activated formula does the heavy lifting. Homedepot.com, \$4
- 6. Oxo Good Grips Furlifter Brush** "As a proud cat mama of two, this is now my go-to lint brush for furniture and clothing," says *Maker*. "The generously sized paddle comes with a case that traps fur and debris at its base for easy emptying." Oxo.com, \$16
- 7. CLR Stainless Steel Cleaner** Fingerprints and smudges on stainless steel fridges and appliances don't stand a chance against this hardworking spray. Walmart.com, \$5
- 8. Casabella Microfiber Glass Cloth** The secret to streak-free, lint-free shiny mirrors. Casabella.com, \$10/set of 2

CLASSIC CLEANERS

- 1. Guardsman Dusting Cloth** Say goodbye to baseboard dust bunnies with this extra-large reusable cloth. Shopguardsman.com, \$3
- 2. Oxo Good Grips Soap Dispensing Palm Brush** Saves space by the sink with its built-in soap reservoir and has a replaceable head if bristles get grimy. Oxo.com, \$6
- 3. Swiffer Sweep + Vac Starter Kit** Great for sucking up dirt and pet hair in small spaces. Swiffer.com for stores, \$55
- 4. Seventh Generation Natural Dish Liquid in Free & Clear** Big-time grease-cutting strength and truly fragrance-free. Seventhgeneration.com, from \$3
- 5. Brillo Steel Wool Soap Pads** Still bringing dingy pots and pans back to life. Brillo.com for stores, \$2.50/10-pack
- 6. CLR Bath & Kitchen Cleaner** "This cut through a serious layer of grime and soap scum in a friend's filthy bathtub in virtually no time," says *Kerr*. Target.com, \$4
- 7. J.R. Watkins All Purpose Cleaner in Lemon** Gentle on surfaces and pretty enough to leave out on the counter. Jrwatkins.com, \$5
- 8. Mr. Clean Magic Eraser Extra Power** The stain- and scuff-fighting sponge in every pro cleaner's arsenal. Mrclean.com for stores, from \$3/4-pack

- 9. Bounty Paper Towels** One sheet handily tackles a spill and survives several rinsings. Bountytowels.com for stores, \$2/roll
- 10. Lysol Disinfecting Wipes** The easiest way to disinfect germy surfaces. Lysol.com for stores, \$3/35-count dispenser

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