A Cleaner for *Every* Surface

Take a look around your house. How many different materials do you see? In your kitchen alone you may have wood: painted and unpainted, tile; glazed and unglazed, natural stone surfaces, man-made plastics and acrylics, sinks of stainless steel or porcelain, appliances that are white, bisque, black or stainless steel, glass: door inserts, cooking surfaces and windows! How do you clean these surfaces?

Household cleaners can be grouped according to strength, purpose and their cleaning mechanism. Cleaners are abrasives, solvents, bleaches, detergents; they can be acids or alkalis. The list can be refined according to the strength of the cleaner. For routine household cleaning you will want to use the most gentle and least hazardous cleaners first.

Most of what soils our homes will dissolve in water, the universal solvent. Keep in mind that wood can warp, and water can leave a white stain on finished wood. Textiles can shrink, some materials will mildew and paper products might disintegrate! Water should not be used as a cleaner around electrical components because of the risk of electrical shock! Water is the mildest solvent.

To remove oils and other stains that do not dissolve in water there are stronger organic solvents: acetone, denatured alcohol, petroleum distillates including kerosene, mineral spirits, naphtha, dry cleaning fluid, and turpentine. Organic solvents are sometimes incorporated in polishes, degreasers and multi-purpose cleaners. Many solvents are