

Residential Cleaning Academy

Before You Use It:

A CLEANER'S GUIDE TO
PRODUCTS, TOOLS,
AND SURFACE RISKS.



AVOID COSTLY
SURFACE DAMAGE



KNOW WHAT WORKS—
AND WHERE IT DOESN'T



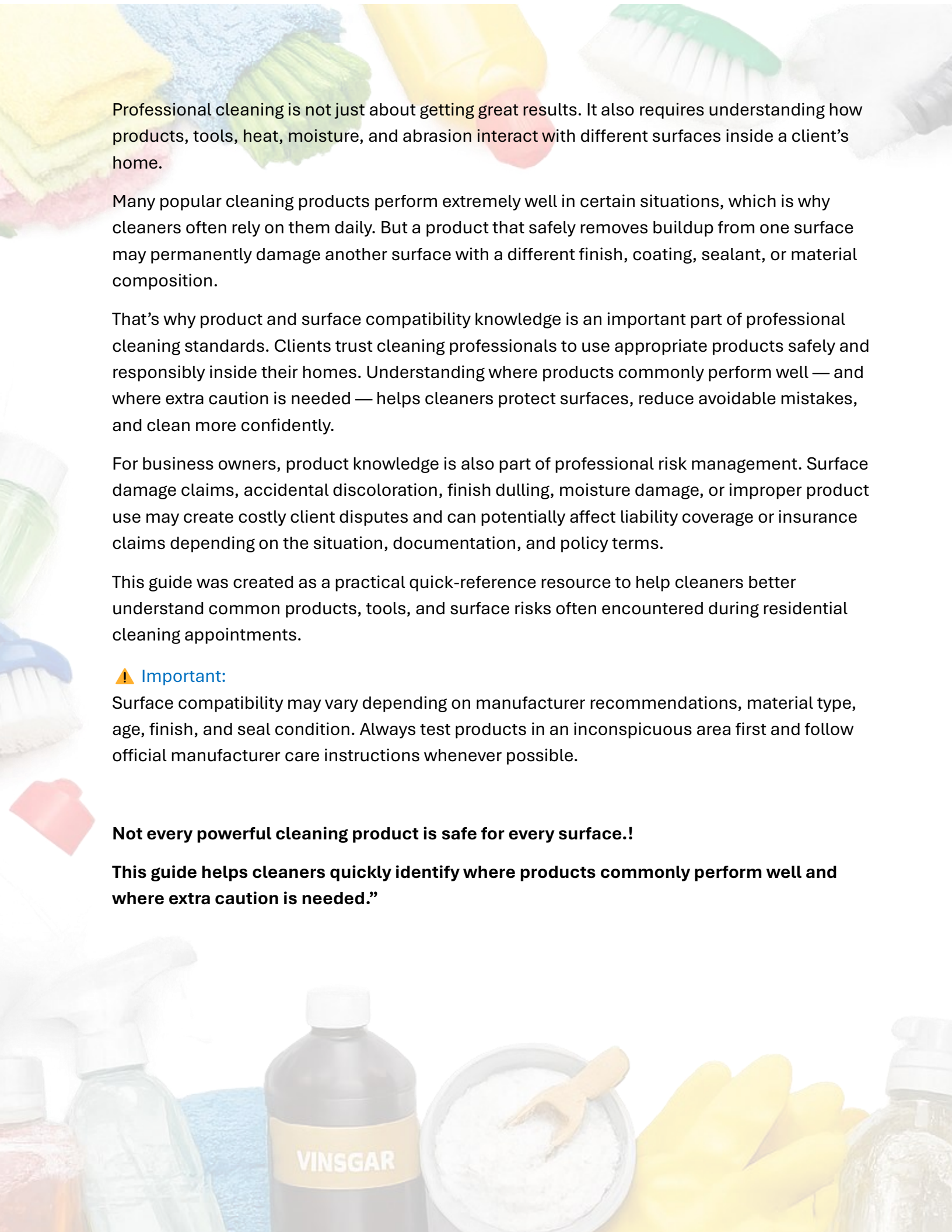
PROTECT YOUR
CLIENTS' HOME



REDUCE RISK.
PROTECT YOUR
BUSINESS.

✦ Professional knowledge. Safer results. *Every time.* ✦





Professional cleaning is not just about getting great results. It also requires understanding how products, tools, heat, moisture, and abrasion interact with different surfaces inside a client's home.

Many popular cleaning products perform extremely well in certain situations, which is why cleaners often rely on them daily. But a product that safely removes buildup from one surface may permanently damage another surface with a different finish, coating, sealant, or material composition.

That's why product and surface compatibility knowledge is an important part of professional cleaning standards. Clients trust cleaning professionals to use appropriate products safely and responsibly inside their homes. Understanding where products commonly perform well — and where extra caution is needed — helps cleaners protect surfaces, reduce avoidable mistakes, and clean more confidently.

For business owners, product knowledge is also part of professional risk management. Surface damage claims, accidental discoloration, finish dulling, moisture damage, or improper product use may create costly client disputes and can potentially affect liability coverage or insurance claims depending on the situation, documentation, and policy terms.

This guide was created as a practical quick-reference resource to help cleaners better understand common products, tools, and surface risks often encountered during residential cleaning appointments.

 Important:

Surface compatibility may vary depending on manufacturer recommendations, material type, age, finish, and seal condition. Always test products in an inconspicuous area first and follow official manufacturer care instructions whenever possible.

Not every powerful cleaning product is safe for every surface.!

This guide helps cleaners quickly identify where products commonly perform well and where extra caution is needed.”





PART 1: CLEANING PRODUCTS

Product Name	Commonly Used On	⚠ Use Caution / Avoid On
Magic Eraser	Shower buildup, scuff marks, textured surfaces	Finished wood, glossy finishes, appliance coatings
Bar Keepers Friend	Shower glass, sinks, mineral buildup	Marble, brass, brushed appliance finishes
Vinegar	Glass, hard water buildup	Natural stone, marble, granite
Bleach	Disinfecting whites, mildew treatment	Colored fabrics, delicate finishes
Degreasers	Kitchen grease, heavy buildup	Painted cabinets, delicate finishes
Hydrogen Peroxide	Stain treatment, disinfecting	Delicate fabrics, some natural stone
Toilet Bowl Cleaners	Toilet bowls, mineral buildup	Natural stone, metal finishes
Disinfectants	High-touch surfaces	Unfinished wood, delicate stone
CLR / Calcium Removers	Mineral deposits, hard water stains	Natural stone, aluminum, delicate finishes
Alcohol-Based Cleaners	Electronics, glass, sanitizing	Leather, coated finishes, screens

VINSGAR

BLEACH

✂ PART 2 TOOLS & ABRASIVES

Product Name	Commonly Used On	⚠ Use Caution / Avoid On
Steam Mop	Sealed ceramic tile, sealed porcelain tile	Marble, laminate, lvp/lvt, unsealed wood
Razor Scrapers	Glass cooktops, glass buildup	Coated glass, delicate finishes
Abrasive Pads	Heavy buildup, grout cleaning	Delicate finishes, polished surfaces
Hard Bristle / Grout Brushes	Grout lines, textured surfaces	Soft stone, delicate grout sealers
Microfiber Cloths	Dusting, polishing, general cleaning	Dry dusting glossy surfaces, cross-contamination risk
Glass Cooktop Cleaners	Glass cooktops	Coated appliance finishes

PART 3 FLOOR & WOOD CARE

Product	Commonly Used On	 Use Caution / Avoid On
Murphy Oil Soap	Finished wood surfaces	Waxed floors, buildup-prone surfaces
Wood Floor Cleaners	Sealed hardwood floors	Over-wetting wood, incompatible product mixing
Dish Soap	Light cleaning, grease cutting	Hardwood floors, overuse causing residue/streaking
Furniture Polish	Wood furniture, polishing	Floors, fabrics, buildup-prone surfaces
Stainless Steel Cleaners	Stainless appliances, sinks	Matte coatings, screens, stone overspray



PART 4 HIGH-RISK SURFACES

Surface	Why Extra Caution Is Needed
Marble / Natural Stone	Sensitive to acids, abrasives, moisture
Hardwood Floors	Moisture and residue buildup risks
Matte Appliance Finishes	Easily streaked or dulled
Glass Cooktops	Scratch-sensitive surfaces
Screens & Displays	Coating damage risks
Brass / Gold Fixtures	Finish wear and discoloration
Painted Cabinets	Degreasers and abrasives may damage finish
Luxury Vinyl Plank (LVP)	Heat and moisture sensitivity
Sealed Surfaces	Sealants wear over time
Delicate Fabrics	Discoloration and spotting risks