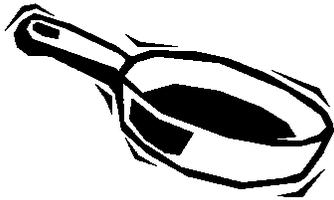




Cleaning Household Utensils and Metals

Cleaning and Sterilizing Dishes and Cooking Utensils

Before using any dishes, pots, pans or cooking utensils that were in contact with flood water, wash and sterilize them.



- ① Any piece of equipment that can be taken apart should be cleaned in pieces. Remove plastic and wooden handles from frying pans and saucepans. Clean parts separately.
- ② Wash dishes, pots, pans and utensils in hot, sudsy water. Use a brush, if necessary, to remove dirt.
- ③ After sudsing and brushing, rinse in clear water. Place dishes in a wire basket or other container and dip them in a sanitizing solution. Use a solution recommended by local health authorities or use $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon chlorine bleach to a gallon of water.
- ④ Air-dry dishes. Do not dry them with a dish towel. If cupboards and food preparation surfaces were in contact with flood water, clean and rinse them with a chlorine bleach solution before storing dishes and utensils.

Cleaning Household Metals

Rust causes the most damage to flooded household metals, especially iron. Use the following treatments to control rusting.

Iron Pots, Pans and Utensils

- ① Wash with soap and water, using a stiff brush and scouring powder.
- ② If rust remains, wipe with an oil saturated cloth or use a commercial rust remover.
- ③ Remove rust from kitchen utensils by scouring with steel wool.
- ④ Wash in hot soap suds, rinse and dry thoroughly.

This document is IFAS
publication DH 527.

Adapted by UF/IFAS from:
Fact Sheet HE-3169, rev.
(Institute of Food and
Agricultural Sciences,
University of Florida).
Developed by the Florida
Cooperative Extension Service
for the benefit of Florida's
citizens.

- ⑤ Season iron pans and utensils with a generous amount of unsalted cooking oil. Heat in a 250°F oven for two or three hours. This will permit oil to soak into pores of metal. During the heating process apply more oil as needed. When seasoning is completed wipe off the excess oil.

Hardware

- ① Coat iron hardware with petrolatum or machine oil to prevent further rusting.
- ② Use stove polish on stove or similar ironwork.

Locks and Hinges

Locks and hinges, especially those made of iron, should be taken apart, wiped with kerosene and oiled. Follow the same procedure as for iron hardware.

If it isn't possible to remove locks or hinges, squirt a little machine oil into the bolt opening or keyhole. Work the knobs to distribute the oil. This will help prevent rusting of the springs and metal casing (Do not use too much oil as it may drip on the woodwork, making painting difficult.).



Stainless Steel, Nickel-Copper Alloy, Nickel or Chrome-Plated Metals

- ① Wash thoroughly and polish with a fine-powdered cleanser.
- ② If furniture plating or hardware is broken so that base metal is exposed and rusted, wipe with kerosene and then wash and dry the surface. Wax to prevent further rusting.

Aluminum Pans and Utensils

- ① Wash thoroughly with hot sudsy water. Scour any unpolished surfaces, such as the insides of pans, with soapy steel wool pads. Rub in one direction only.
- ② Polish plated aluminum surfaces with a fine cleansing powder or silver polish. Do not scour.
- ③ Sterilize in a chlorine solution.
- ④ To remove dark stains from aluminum pans caused by alkaline foods, fill pan with water. Add 1 tablespoon vinegar or 2 teaspoons cream of tartar for each quart of water. Boil for 10 to 15 minutes, scour with steel wool pad with soap, rinse and dry.

Copper and Brass

- ① Polish with a special polish or rub with cloth saturated with vinegar or with a piece of salted lemon.
- ② Always wash copper thoroughly with soap suds after using acids or commercial polishes or they will retarnish rapidly.
- ③ Wash lacquered ornamental copper in warm sudsy water. Rinse with warm water and wipe dry. Do not polish. Do not soak.



Pewter

- ① Wash thoroughly with hot sudsy water, rinse and dry. Use a soft toothbrush to get into crevices.
- ② Rub on silver polish (paste or liquid, not the dip type) with a soft cloth. Use a soft toothbrush to get into crevices.
- ③ Rinse in hot soap suds and dry.
- ④ Check for small holes, cracked joints and dents. If the pewter needs mending and is a prized piece, let a professional fix it.
- ⑤ Small holes can be mended by cleaning the metal inside the pewter object with steel wool, then filling with pewter epoxy mender. Follow instructions on the label carefully.
- ⑥ Felt or other protection materials that have separated from household decorative accessories such as bookends, ashtrays and candle holders should be replaced. Felt or protective materials can be purchased in fabric stores, cut to match those damaged and glued in place with rubber cement.