

**CLEANING AND  
RENOVATING AT HOME:  
A HOUSEHOLD MANUAL**

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Cleaning and Renovating at Home: A Household Manual by E. G. Osman

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**E. G. OSMAN**

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AT HOME**

# Cleaning and Renovating at Home

A Household Manual

By  
E. G. OSMAN

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*Enlarged Edition*

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# Cleaning and Renovating at Home

## CHAPTER I

### SOME GENERAL PRINCIPLES

**B**EFORE undertaking systematically to clean, even in part, any garment or fabric, be sure to remove all loose dirt by brushing or otherwise.

Professional cleaners use two processes, the wet and the dry. In the former, soap is the cleansing medium; in the latter, the petroleum products, chloroform, turpentine and other solvents, references to the application of which will follow. For the most part, these liquids and their compounds are combustible, and they must be handled and used with caution and never in proximity to an open fire or gas flame, owing to their volatile nature. They should be kept in tight receptacles, the operator drawing into a cup, or similar vessel, only such quantities as may be needed from time to time. This method will be found both economical and safe.

When the piece is to be dipped, it is better and more economical to use a vessel with a cover, which

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## CLEANING AND RENOVATING AT HOME

will prevent excessive evaporation and save the liquid, which may be filtered and used again. Frequently, to obtain the best results, the article may be wrung out of the liquid and given a second bath, or even a third. This thoroughness of method would entail considerable expense for the solvent alone if the liquid were thrown away after one using or allowed to evaporate. For all ordinary purposes gasoline, benzine, or benzol can be used repeatedly, if strained through filter paper, which may be bought at any drug store.

All bottles containing cleaning liquids should be preferably of a kind different from those ordinarily found on kitchen, laundry, or pantry shelves; and they should be carefully labelled and so placed as to be out of the reach of children.

When removing spots a pad of blotting paper or absorbent cotton should be put under the material being cleaned before commencing the process. This pad will absorb the dirt loosened by the solvent and will aid in preventing the ring so often found on the fabric after the spot is removed, especially when benzine is used. Sometimes the ring is the result of an impure solvent. In rubbing out spots, therefore, the expert cleaner with chemicals will advise the use of the absorbent pad, or even bread crumbs, to take up the excess of liquid. He will also rub round and