

Table 1: Choosing the Right Detergent based on the Soil

TYPE OF CLEANER	pH RANGE	SOILS REMOVED
Mineral-acid cleaner	0-2	Heavy scales
Mild acid	2-5 1/2	Inorganic salts, water, and soluble metal complexes
Neutral	5 1/2 to 8 1/2	Light oils, small particulates
Mild alkaline	8 1/2-11	Oils, particulates, films
Alkaline	11-12 1/2	Oils, fats, proteins
Corrosive alkaline	12 1/2-14	Heavy grease/soils