

OUTSIDE THE LABS

# 4 Best Glass Cleaners From Our Evaluations

We evaluated nine popular glass cleaners from brands including Sprayway, Windex, and Zep

By Jodhaira Rodriguez | Updated by Daphne Yao  
Updated March 18, 2026

The bathroom mirror. Bedroom windows. Or that glass-topped table in the center of the living room. Glass surfaces are all around our homes. Often, it can feel like glass is a debris magnet, too, with fresh fingerprints, bits of toothpaste, water spots, and dust seeming to coat glass mere moments after cleaning. The solution? A great glass cleaner, which can leave surfaces sparkling while repelling future grime.

To find the best glass cleaners, we tested eight options from some of the most popular brands to see how well they clean toothpaste remnants, lipstick stains, and other debris on glass surfaces.

All of the products we tested cleaned nontinted windows and mirrors well. But only a handful promised to be safe for glass surfaces like tinted windows, stovetops, or shower doors.

We chose our four favorites for their additional functionality and the thorough safety warnings on their bottles. We also used data from a CR partner, SkinSafe, about the ingredients in each glass cleaner. It uses information from the Mayo Clinic on the most common allergy-inducing ingredients to provide scores for products.



All the glass cleaners we tried cleaned glass surfaces, but a few required less work than others for a streak-free, shiny finish.  
Photos: Consumer Reports, Getty Images

## Top Pick



The Sprayway cleaner is not only for glass: It also cleans chrome, tile, and porcelain.  
Photo: Consumer Reports

## Sprayway Glass Cleaner

While all the glass cleaners we tested performed well on mirrors and windows, we selected Sprayway's foaming glass cleaner as our favorite because of its additional functionality

as a chrome, tile, and porcelain cleaner. The ammonia-free formula easily cut through all our messes, leaving surfaces instantly dry after a single wipe with a microfiber cloth. Of the eight products we tested, it was the quickest to dry on mirrors and windows. This foaming formula also clung to the surfaces it was sprayed on, so there was no need to rush to wipe. That makes it less of a hassle than most liquid glass cleaners, where I had to work quickly to avoid cleaner dripping.

According to the manufacturer, the label includes thorough safety notices, and the entire can (including the cap) is recyclable.

Because the can is opaque, it's not possible to tell when the glass cleaner is running low. The smell can be a bit unpleasant, so I recommend using it in a well-ventilated area with open windows.

Sprayway is not in the SkinSafe database.

### PRODUCT DETAILS

**Type:** Ammonia-free

**Size:** 19 fluid ounces

**Cost per ounce\*:** 19 cents

## Runner-Up



The Invisible Glass cleaner, as the product name denotes, leaves glass surfaces shiny and streak-free.  
Photo: Consumer Reports

### Invisible Glass Glass Cleaner

| PRODUCT DETAILS                  |
|----------------------------------|
| <b>Type:</b> Ammonia-free        |
| <b>Size:</b> 32 fluid ounces     |
| <b>Cost per ounce*:</b> 14 cents |

Invisible Glass is another multitasking, ammonia-free product that left our test mirrors and windows shiny and streak-free. The label does not include a list of surfaces on which the product is safe to use, but the product site says it can be used on glass in your home, office, or vehicle. I used it to clean tinted car windows and a glass stovetop, too, and found that it worked well on both. First-aid instructions and safety warnings are printed clearly on the label. Invisible Glass is not in the SkinSafe database.

## Best Ammonia-Based



Windex's foaming formula doesn't drip when dispensed and can be used on a number of different surfaces, too.  
Photo: Consumer Report

### Windex Fast Shine Foam

Windex's original liquid formula previously held this distinction, but this new foaming formula knocked it off the top of our list. With foaming cleaners, there's less mess because foam doesn't drip down the surfaces you apply it to like liquids do. Like all the other glass cleaners we tested, it removed the messes we applied to windows and mirrors well. According to the label, it can be used to clean ceramic tiles, countertops, and appliances, too. The cap on this bottle can be locked to avoid accidental dispensing of the product. All safety warnings are printed in both English and Spanish. Like Sprayway's glass cleaner, this product is packaged in an opaque bottle, so it's harder to tell when you're running low. According to SkinSafe, this glass cleaner is 91 percent free of the 11 most common allergens, but it is not free of fragrance, propylene glycol, balsam of Peru, and coconut.

| PRODUCT DETAILS                  |
|----------------------------------|
| <b>Type:</b> Contains ammonia    |
| <b>Size:</b> 19 fluid ounces     |
| <b>Cost per ounce*:</b> 19 cents |

## Best Vinegar-Based



The vinegar-based glass cleaner from Windex cleans just as well as the ammonia-based Windex Original.  
Photo: Consumer Reports

### Windex Vinegar Glass Cleaner

The vinegar-based version of Windex's glass cleaner performed just as well as the original, clearing mirrors and windows of toothpaste, oily messes, and lipstick stains completely. After wiping away toothpaste from my bathroom mirror, I didn't have to do any extra buffing to leave the surface looking pristine. Ditto for the oily fingerprints on the windows—no residue left behind each time. On other glass surfaces around the home, like a glass stovetop and shower door, it performed as well as the other glass cleaners we tested on these surfaces. I was relieved to find that there was no harsh chemical scent or lingering vinegar smell. Instead, a light floral scent was left behind on freshly cleaned surfaces. The cleaner's label isn't very specific: It only says the product can be used on glass and mirrors, but according to the company's site, you can safely use it to clean glass stovetops, shower doors, tables, picture frames, and home decor. Like with the original Windex glass cleaner, the instructions and safety warnings on the label are printed both in English and Spanish. The back of the label is easier to read than on the original blue cleaner, thanks to the colorless formula. This formula is also ammonia-free, so cleaning glass surfaces near surfaces that can be damaged by ammonia shouldn't be an issue. SkinSafe's site says this product is not free of balsam of Peru, fragrance, and propylene glycol. It is 91 percent free of the most common allergens.

# Other Glass Cleaners We Tested



The Windex Original glass cleaner works well on a wide variety of glass surfaces, but it shouldn't be used on tinted windows.  
Photo: Consumer Reports

## Windex Original Glass Cleaner

Arguably the best-known name in glass cleaning, Windex is popular for good reason. Windex Original cleaner left mirrors, windows, stovetops, and glass shower doors spotless in our testing. Additionally, it can be used to clean glass tabletops, picture frames, doors, and even microwave doors, making it one of the most versatile glass cleaners we tested.

The product site features a full list of surfaces that Windex recommends you clean with this glass cleaner. Because it has ammonia in its formula, it should not be used on tinted windows or other surfaces that can be damaged by ammonia, such as wood, or on natural stone countertops (marble, quartz, granite).

The back of the label had directions and the children's safety warning printed in both English and Spanish. However, reading the label through the blue liquid cleaner was a bit difficult.

| PRODUCT DETAILS  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Type:            | Contains ammonia |
| Size:            | 26 fluid ounces  |
| Cost per ounce*: | 15 cents         |



The Zep glass cleaner does a good job on windows and mirrors, but it can be confusing to figure out which surfaces the formula can be used to clean.  
Photo: Consumer Reports

## Zep Streak-Free Glass Cleaner

Ammonia-based Zep cleaned my mirrors and windows well, but it isn't as clear as others about which surfaces it can be used to clean. On the label, the company says windows, mirrors, and other glass surfaces are okay, but the product site more broadly recommends the cleaner for "nearly every surface of the home."

The label has comprehensive safety warnings and first-aid instructions in case the product is inhaled, ingested, or comes into contact with your eyes. While the directions are printed only in English, there is a small note in Spanish asking users to refrain from using the glass cleaner until they have thoroughly read the label.

| PRODUCT DETAILS  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Type:            | Contains ammonia |
| Size:            | 32 fluid ounces  |
| Cost per ounce*: | 7 cents          |



This glass cleaner does a good job at cleaning glass surfaces, but the bottle doesn't contain enough instructions on safety.  
Photo: Consumer Reports

## Hope's Perfect Glass Glass Cleaner

Hope's Perfect Glass Cleaner ammonia-free formula had no trouble cleaning my mirrors and windows, but its lackluster safety labeling kept it out of our top picks. The only safety disclaimer on the label is "Keep out of reach of children," with no instructions for what to do if the cleaner gets in your eyes, is inhaled, or is swallowed. The short description of what each ingredient in the cleaner's formula does is a helpful feature we didn't see on any of the other glass cleaners we tested.

The manufacturer says Hope's can also be used to clean phone screens, but I opted out of trying this for myself because Apple doesn't recommend using any cleaning products on its phones (unless you're disinfecting with an alcohol or Clorox wipe). The formula does not contain ammonia, and the manufacturer recommends using paper towels to wipe surfaces after spraying—a suggestion different from most other glass cleaners, whose manufacturers recommend using a microfiber or cotton cloth. Like the Sprayway glass cleaner, Hope's bottle isn't transparent, so it's hard to tell when you are running low.

| PRODUCT DETAILS  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Type:            | Ammonia-free    |
| Size:            | 32 fluid ounces |
| Cost per ounce*: | 16 cents        |



This cleaner, touted as a more natural cleaning product, doesn't come with any safety instructions.  
Photo: Consumer Reports

## Mrs. Meyer's Clean Day Glass Cleaner

No other glass cleaner had a scent that came close to the lemon ver-bena scent of this glass cleaner from Mrs. Meyer's. It was so subtle and pleasant, my first thought was how I'd love a candle with the scent burning in my bathroom at all times. Though it is ammonia-free and touted as a greener cleaning product, it had the longest ingredient list of any of the glass cleaners I tested.

The label has no safety warnings—not even the “keep out of reach of children” that other cleaners with less-than-ideal safety labeling had. Even with more “natural” ammonia-free formulas, all cleaning products should be kept away from children and pets. The manufacturer doesn't recommend using this cleaner on surfaces other than mirrors and glass.

| PRODUCT DETAILS                  |
|----------------------------------|
| <b>Type:</b> Ammonia-free        |
| <b>Size:</b> 24 fluid ounces     |
| <b>Cost per ounce*:</b> 21 cents |



This vinegar-based cleaner was less effective than others when removing lipstick remnants and toothpaste stains.  
Photo: Consumer Reports

## Aunt Fannie's Glass & Window Vinegar Cleaner

This vinegar-based glass cleaner from Aunt Fannie's left much to be desired in our evaluations. On lipstick-removal duty, it left behind about half of the stain on my living room window after the standard two wipes with a microfiber cloth. Similarly in the bathroom, toothpaste required more wiping and a significant amount of pressure to remove toothpaste stains from a mirror. Even after 10 wipes (the most wipes required of any of the glass cleaners we evaluated), there were still some small toothpaste streaks left behind. With enough elbow grease, it did get all of the glass surfaces clean, but it wasn't among the top performers in any of our evaluations.

After each spray, I noticed a few drops of the glass cleaner dripping from the bottle's nozzle, so I had to wipe up bits of product from the floor or windowsill each time I used this cleaner.

If a lingering vinegar scent is not your cup of tea, steer clear of this glass cleaner. I could still smell the scent from this vinegar-based cleaner about 25 minutes after I cleaned the windows and mirrors in my apartment. If you can look past the scent, this cleaner can also be used to clean light fixtures, chrome, and stainless steel surfaces, according to the manufacturer's website.

| PRODUCT DETAILS                          |
|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Type:</b> Ammonia-free, vinegar-based |
| <b>Size:</b> 16.9 fluid ounces           |
| <b>Cost per ounce*:</b> 71 cents         |

## 1-to-10 Vinegar and Water Solution

Distilled white vinegar, a popular cleaning ingredient, is another commonly used glass cleaner. I prepared a 1-to-10 solution of white vinegar and water, and tested it against the same messes as the eight glass cleaners. While it removed lipstick, oily fingerprints, and toothpaste just as well as the dedicated glass cleaners, it left noticeable streaks behind. As versatile as white vinegar is as an ingredient, it isn't our first choice for mirror cleaning, and you shouldn't reach for vinegar to clean every surface in your home.

## What to Consider When Shopping for a Glass Cleaner

When choosing a glass cleaner to take care of the toothpaste remnants, lipstick stains, and other debris typically found across glass surfaces, windows, and mirrors, there are a couple of factors to consider. Ammonia vs. ammonia-free: Ammonia is a common ingredient found in glass cleaners. In our tests, we found that the ammonia-free glass cleaners we tested cleaned just as well as the products containing ammonia (but the latter tend to smell).

Both of the glass cleaners we tested with ammonia in their list of ingredients cautioned against using these cleaners on tinted windows, and while you should never mix any cleaning products together, it's even more important to avoid mixing ammonia-based products with other cleaning products that may contain bleach because the fumes produced by this mixture are toxic.

Surfaces to be cleaned: As a general rule, you should use glass cleaners only on the surfaces that the manufacturer clearly states they are safe to use on. All the glass cleaners we tested were safe to use on nontinted windows and mirrors. If a manufacturer described its product as safe to use on glass stovetops, glass shower doors, and tinted car windows, we tested that product on those additional surfaces.

It is always safest to use a cleaning product that has been specifically formulated to clean a certain surface, such as a stove cleaner to clean a stovetop. When in doubt, reach out to the manufacturer to find out whether a product is safe to use on a surface that is not listed on the label.

## How CR Tested Glass Cleaners

To test glass cleaners at home, I applied toothpaste, oily fingerprints, a mixture of margarine and flour, and bright red lipstick to bathroom mirrors and living room windows. After spraying glass cleaner on each surface, I used a clean microfiber cloth to wipe away the cleaner and debris, counting the number of wipes necessary to completely rid the surface of messes. The glass cleaners labeled for use on additional surfaces, such as glass stovetops, glass shower doors, and tinted car windows, were also tested on those surfaces against oily fingerprints, soap scum, and general car window debris.

I also carefully reviewed each product's label for appropriate safety notices and clear directions. And I recorded notes on scent, ingredients, and how easy each product is to dispense.

*\*Based on price at time of publication.*