

# TOY CLEANING GUIDE

As part of Moorabbin Area Toy Library's Covid-safe plan approved by public health officials, all members are required to thoroughly clean their toys before returning them to the toy library.

If you do not clean your toys at home, you will be requested to clean them at the toy library or take them back home with you to clean.

***We thank you for keeping all our members safe.***

## Cleaning Kit

Everyone should have:

- 1 pH neutral dishwashing detergent
- 2 some disinfectant or 2-in-1 cleaner/disinfectant (most multipurpose sprays available at the supermarket)
- 3 an old toothbrush
- 4 a kitchen cloth or chux wipe
- 5 a clean tea towel
- 6 cotton buds, toothpicks or satay sticks and cotton wool to clean nooks and crannies



## How to do it

**Always set aside time** to clean toys before returning them to the Toy Library.

**Expert tip:** Some parents clean toys after 'bedtime' & then put the toys away (or in the car boot!) so children aren't tempted to play with them now they are clean!

If it is appropriate, wash non-battery-operated toys well in a laundry tub full of hot soapy water (dishwashing detergent) with some disinfectant in it. **But please don't soak the toy.**

Use the old toothbrush and cotton buds to get into nooks and crannies.

Rinse with hot water and drain or dry with a clean tea towel. Finish by wiping over with a disinfectant. Spray the multipurpose spray onto a cloth until it is quite damp then use this to wipe the toy. Make sure toys are **completely dry** before returning them to their bag or box.

Battery-operated toys should be cleaned with a cloth soaked in hot soapy water with some disinfectant in it and rinsed with a clean cloth soaked in hot water. Be careful not to get water inside the toy. Continue as above.

If anyone in your family has been unwell (e.g. vomiting, diarrhoea, respiratory infection) please contact the toy library prior to returning the toy for further advice.

# Special Instructions

- **Baby rattles** should not be immersed in water if there are parts where the water can get in, as we often can't get it out! Wipe the surface with warm soapy water.
- **Wooden toys** need to be washed well with a toothbrush and hot soapy water but please **don't immerse or soak any wooden toys in water**.
- **Duplo** Wash well in a bowl of warm soapy water with a little disinfectant in. The challenge with Duplo is the drying. Rinsing it in very hot water and leaving it to drain overnight does the trick.

Expert tip: If it is very grimy, put a couple of tablespoons of Napisan in a trough of warm water, soak for 3-4 hours or overnight. The dirt just falls off!

- **Bath toys** need lots of grease removing formula and **disinfectant**. Please don't assume these don't need cleaning because they have been in the bath all week.
- **Outdoor and sandpit toys** need to be cleaned just as well as other toys because they may be used inside by the next borrower. Remove all sand and dirt and wash well in warm soapy water.

Expert tip: Items such as Duplo, waffle blocks etc. that come packaged in plastic boxes can be washed in their own boxes – cleaning the toy pieces AND the inside of the box at the same time.

- **Wooden puzzles and game boards** can generally wiped with a cloth wet with multipurpose spray. Please ensure they are dry when put in the bag.
- **Cardboard puzzles & game boards**, wipe with a damp cloth if there has been a spill.
- **Fabric (dress-ups/puppets/doll bedding/baby soft toys)**, gently hand wash in warm water with a little laundry detergent. Allow time to wash and dry thoroughly. Some accessories cannot be washed, please note any special instructions on the bag.
- **Bikes, scooters and other ride-ons** must be washed.  
If they are dirty wash with warm soapy water. Use a multipurpose spray to thoroughly clean frequently touched surfaces such as buttons or handlebars.
- **Raeco bags & storage boxes** need to be cleaned & looked after too! Please wipe them with warm soapy water or spray cleaner **and keep them out of harm's way**. (Boxes are expensive to replace. Misuse breakages will incur replacement charges.)

Expert tip: After removing the toy from its bag, turn the bag inside-out, clean the inside, then hang it up (away from kids) to air dry. The day before return, turn it the right way again & wipe the outside before putting the toy back in.

**Finally** – always keep bags and boxes away from the play area – these are not toys and breakages must be paid for.

Thank you.