Acrylic and Fiberglass Tubs

Acrylic and fiberglass tubs are a popular choice for homeowners -- and with good reason. Acrylic can be molded into all sorts of shapes -- including the classic clawfoot tub, traditionally made of cast iron. They hold heat well, aren't too heavy, and sport a lustrous finish. Unfortunately, these tubs can scratch horribly if cleaned incorrectly. The way to proceed is gently, very gently. The good news: gentle cleaning does not translate into high maintenance. On the contrary, you'll probably save some cash by foregoing pricey chemical cleansers.

Here's how to clean your acrylic tub safely and naturally: Wash your tub often, at least once a week, and use a mild soap -- plain old dishwashing liquid is best -- with lots of hot water. Most dirt will simply wash off with clean water. We recommend using liquid dish washing soap such as Joy, Palmolive or similar. Clorox bleach, Windex, ammonia based glass cleaners, Formula 409 and Fantastic are stronger cleaners that are also safe to use.

Never clean your bath with Scrubbing Bubbles, Goof Off Paint Remover or any type of thinners or acetones. Use of these chemicals will destroy the acrylic and void your warranty.

Always clean with a soft sponge. Never, ever use abrasive cleaning products (those containing fine grit; check the label) or abrasive cleaning pads. Waxing is another no-no. Your acrylic tub is naturally very shiny and designed to stay that way without additional help. Lastly, is your water supply kind of alkaline? If so, you might notice a little hard-water buildup appearing over time. The easiest fix, believe it or not, is plain white vinegar. Spray a 50/50 mix of water and vinegar on the affected areas and let it soak for a while. Rub gently, then rinse. It's that simple! See what I mean about low maintenance?

Scratches and dulling can be removed with a liquid polisher such as Gel-Gloss or metal polish.