

# Melbourne Community Toy Library

## Toy Cleaning Information Sheet

Toys, puzzles and games are so much more appealing if they are clean.

No one likes to borrow a dirty toy, so all toys **must** be thoroughly **cleaned** and **dried** before they are returned to the Toy Library.

Always set aside time to clean the toys before returning them to the Toy Library. You might like to do this the night before they are due back and then hide them!

### What you will need

- A cleaning formula that will remove grease, such as:
  - Spray and Wipe;
  - Tri-Nature (environmentally friendly);
  - Bi-carbonate of soda (“bicarb”) and vinegar (environmentally friendly and non-toxic);
- Vanilla Fridge Wipe (to remove smells)
- Disinfectant (like Pine-o-clean or Dettol)
- A damp cloth
- An old tooth brush
- Satay sticks and cotton wool to make fine cotton buds (as commercial cotton buds are too thick)
- A clean tea towel

### How to do it

- Where appropriate (see Tips for Cleaning), wash toy with hot soapy water and/or grease removing formula. Use toothbrush or ‘cotton bud’ to clean nooks, crannies, and edges.
- Rinse
- Dry toy thoroughly.
- Most importantly, **DO NOT** use a dishwasher for our toys as it may melt them!

### Tips for Cleaning

#### Child or household infection

If your child or another member of the household has been sick, clean the toys as per the guidelines, **and** inform the coordinator as further cleaning may be required.

Kitchen smells on toys, plastic bags and tubs can be removed very effectively with a damp cloth and some Vanilla Fridge Wipe or vinegar.

Baby rattles and baby toys should not be immersed in water, as water can get in and cannot be removed. Rinse baby toys well of all soap and detergent. Bicarb soda is the preferred cleaning solution for baby toys, but still needs to be wiped off with a clean damp cloth.

Wooden toys are wiped all over with a damp cloth. Use Spray and Wipe or disinfectant if needed. Do not soak or immerse in water.

Duplo/Construction sets are washed in hot soapy water, using a toothbrush to get into all the grooves. Rinse in very hot water. Leave to drain overnight on a tea towel.

Bath toys **do** need cleaning and even more thoroughly than other toys, as dampness promotes the growth of germs. Any toy used in the bath must be dismantled, cleaned in hot soapy water and dried immediately. Use grease-removing formula and disinfectant if necessary.

Outdoor/Sandpit toys are immersed in hot soapy water. To remove all sand, keep rinsing them under hot running water using a toothbrush to get into nooks and crannies.

Ride-ons are brought inside at night, in rain, and in the hot sun, to prevent deterioration.

Dress-ups will need time to wash and dry. If soiled (eg, blood, vomit), rinse soiled area thoroughly, then wash in hot soapy water. To get the wrinkles out of a tutu, after washing turn it inside out and hang upside down in the bathroom to use steam from the shower.

Wooden puzzles like all wooden toys, are wiped all over with a damp cloth. Use Spray and Wipe if needed. Do not soak or immerse in water.

Board games/Cardboard puzzles are wiped all over with a damp cloth, cleaning all pieces. Use Spray and Wipe if needed.