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Fingerprints Be Gone!

The purpose of this investigation was to determine which chemical (olive oil, baby oil, Windex, distilled white vinegar, mild soap and water, furniture polish) is best used to remove fingerprints from stainless steel. I hypothesized that if various substances were used in an attempt to remove fingerprints from stainless steel, and then the most effective fingerprint remover would be mild soap and water.

The experiment involved running my fingers through my hair, to get more oil on them. Subsequent to that, I started making fingerprints. I repeated this ten times. Then, I pressed my fingers onto the stainless steel getting fingerprints on it. After that, I poured (or sprayed) the selected chemical onto the steel, and polished for twenty seconds. Then I washed my hands and quickly took a picture.

The data collected did not support the original hypothesis. The average fingerprint removal (rating scale between 0 and 3) for baby oil was 1.2 compared against mild soap and water which was 0.6, distilled white vinegar which was 2.4, olive oil which was 1.6, Windex which was 1.8, and furniture polish which was 2.8.

These findings lead me to conclude that furniture polish is the best chemical of those attempted for removing fingerprints from stainless steel appliances.