

**For More Information:**

Matt Mente

414.278.0040

[mattm@stirstuff.com](mailto:mattm@stirstuff.com)

## **Tips for Indoor Dog Bathing at Home**

For a culture that increasingly spends more time indoors with pets, keeping them clean is a priority. But how does one bathe a dog inside without the dreaded trips to the do-it-yourself dogwash or the mess of juggling super-size rinsing pails in the bathtub or shower?

“Bath time doesn’t have to be unpleasant for you or your dog,” states Patty Mueller, CEO of Idea Factory, Inc., manufacturer of Rinse Ace® Brand pet bathing products. “Bathing your pet at home can be easy as long as you know how to do it and have a few key items available.”

How often one bathes a dog depends on that dog’s lifestyle and breed. Bathing too often can irritate the skin, so a good guideline to follow is bathe your dog only when the coat gets dirty or begins smelling “doggy.”

Mueller recommends having these items on hand before starting: brush, comb or rake, shampoo, conditioner, shampoo mitt, bathing tethers, bath mat, drain cover, shower hose with sprayer and towel. She also suggests bathing the pet on a regular basis and starting early, saying, “Get your puppy used to a bath and you won’t have any problems when the dog gets older.”

### **Here are a few tips to make indoor pet bathing easier:**

1. Gather all the things you need without your pet present (to reduce the pet’s anxiety).
2. Place a bath mat at the bottom of the sink or tub so your pet will not slip and the surface will be protected from nail scratches.
3. Place a screened cover over the drain to catch pet hair before it goes down the drain.
4. Brush or comb the entire coat. Remove mats and tangles (some areas may need to be trimmed with clippers or scissors).

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5. Place your pet in the sink, tub or shower then attach bathing tethers to the collar to hold your pet in place and minimize its movement as well as free up both your hands.
6. Use a shower hose with sprayer and hold it close to the pet's coat to allow water to saturate the pet's coat and skin. (Dumping cups or buckets of water on the coat typically will not thoroughly wet a pet. They also present difficulty for reaching the dog's underside).
7. Apply shampoo to a shampoo mitt for better distribution throughout the coat. Work the shampoo lather deep down to the skin. Rinse thoroughly with shower hose until water runs clear. Apply conditioner then rinse until water runs clear. Shampoo or conditioner residue left on the skin may cause irritation.
8. Let your pet shake off the excess water. Then squeeze out excess water by running your hands over the pet's coat.
9. Finish by towel drying. Keep your pet indoors and away from drafts until the coat is completely dry. Comb or brush, then admire your job well done and appreciate the clean-dog smell.
10. Gather all the bathing and grooming items and place them in a caddy for convenient storage and ease of use at the next bath.

Rinse Ace Brand Pet Bathing products are available at Petco, Petsmart, Pet Supermarket, Pet Supplies Plus, Superpetz, Target and independent pet stores as well as pet catalogs and direct from the manufacturer, Idea Factory, Inc. For more information, call 800-867-4673 or 262-703-0011, or visit [www.rinseace.com](http://www.rinseace.com).

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