

## Description of a Modern Broom

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Brooms are tools used to sweep dirt off floors. In the past, brooms were made out of wood, straw, and twine. The modern broom is usually made out of plastic. Plastic brooms are sometimes less sturdy than wood brooms, but their bristles don't break as often as straw bristles.

### DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR PARTS

Modern brooms are made up of four general parts. These are the brush, the brush cap, the shaft, and the handle. In **Figure 1** below, the four parts are labeled on a generic plastic broom.

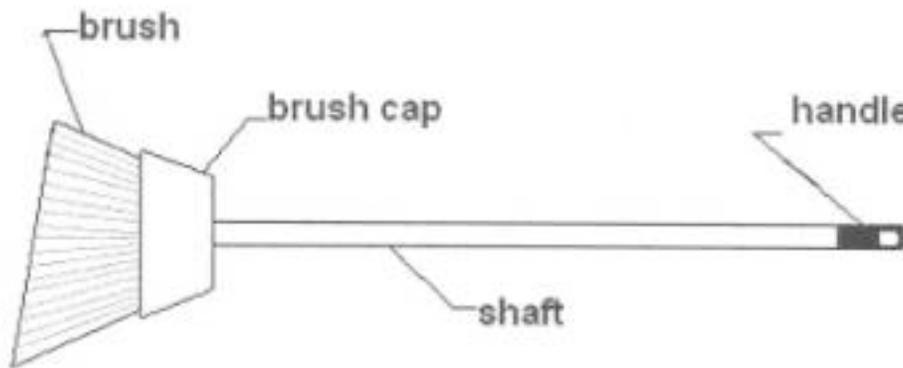


Figure 1: Major Parts of a Plastic Broom

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### Brush

The brush is made up of plastic bristles that are held together by a plastic frame. Many brooms, like **Figure 1**, have bristles that are cut at a slant. This allows the sweeper to have a longer reach. It is also useful for sweeping the corners of rooms.

### **Brush Cap**

The brush cap is a plastic “shell” that fits over the top of the brush. It is used to hold the brush bristles in place. The cap provides extra protection for the joint between the shaft and the brush. It also gives the broom a neater appearance.

### **Shaft**

The shaft is a long pole, usually made out of plastic, that is attached to the top of the brush. It is generally three or four feet in length, so that the sweeper will not have to bend over to sweep.

### **Handle**

The handle is located at the top of the shaft. It is a piece of plastic with a hole through the top of it. It is usually designed as a grip for the sweeper. The hole is used to hang up the broom on a nail after they are done using it.

## **OPERATION OF A BROOM**

A broom can be used to sweep up most types of dry messes, such as dirt or broken glass. The sweeper holds the handle in one hand, the shaft in the other, and swings their arms opposite ways. There are probably other techniques to use as well. The end result is to brush the mess away with the bristles on the broom.