



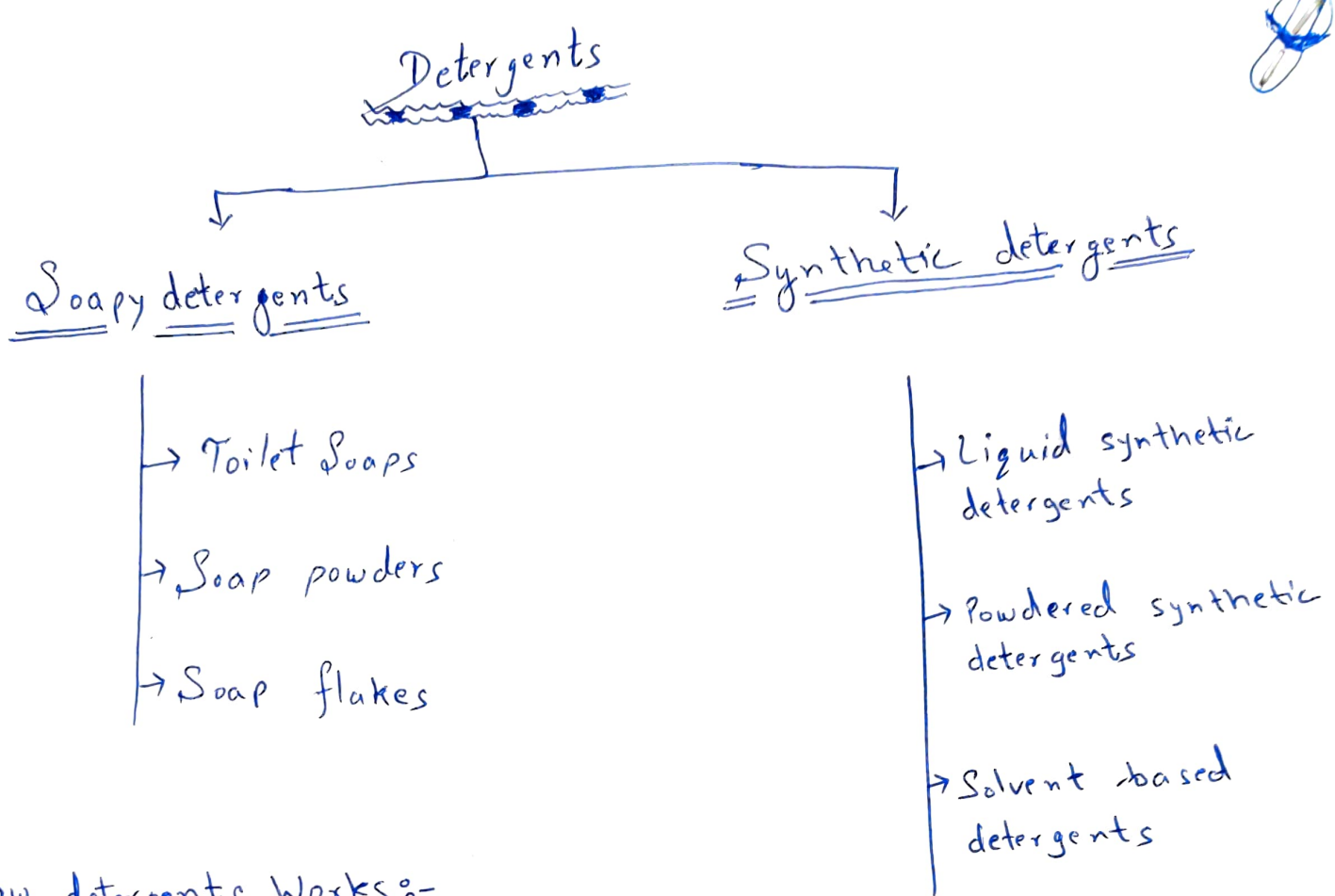
Detergents:-

These are cleaning agents, that when used in conjunction with water, loosen and remove dirt and then hold it in suspension so that the dirt is not re-deposited on the cleaned surface. They can be of two types -

- 1) Soapy detergents
- 2) Synthetic detergents.

The three basic properties of a good detergent are -

- Good wetting power -
to lower the surface tension of water and enable the surface of the article to be thoroughly wet.
- Good emulsifying power -
to break up the grease and enable the dirt to be loosened.
- Good suspending power -
to suspend the dirt in solution, thus preventing its redeposition.



How detergents Works:-

It is the surface active agents or surfactants in the detergent that are responsible for the three basic properties of detergents. Each molecule of the surfactant has a hydrophilic (water-loving) head and a hydrophobic (water-hating), oleophilic (grease-loving) tail.

In other words, the hydrophilic head is attracted to water, whereas the hydrophobic tail is attracted by grease and repelled by water. When the detergent is added to water, the following actions take place:

~~Washing~~

1) Wetting action

2) Emulsifying action

3) Suspending action