



# Room by Room Checklist for Spring Cleaning

## THROUGHOUT

- ☐ Wipe ceilings and walls, using a gentle degreaser as needed to cut through grime
- ☐ Dust everything thoroughly from top to bottom, including smoke/CO detectors (test them, too!) fans, door/window casings, and baseboards
- ☐ Vacuum and shampoo rugs (wool rugs may need professional cleaning)
- ☐ Polish wooden furniture and hard flooring
- ☐ Reseal grout in tile flooring and countertops, applying the sealant with a small foam brush
- ☐ Wash window glass with 1 part vinegar to 1 part hot water, then squeegee dry
- ☐ Wash window screens with mild dish soap
- ☐ Polish metal door and window hardware
- ☐ Clean window treatments
  - Launder draperies according to care labels
  - Wipe blinds with water and mild dish soap
  - Dry clean fabric shades

## DEN/OFFICE

- ☐ Clean computers/electronics with a dust-free cloth + a mix of 1 drop dish soap to 1 quart water
- ☐ Dust keyboards with a vacuum or cotton swabs
- ☐ Organize paperwork and files

## BATHROOMS

- ☐ Clean all surfaces along with the shower curtain
- ☐ Restock your first-aid kit
- ☐ Discard any expired cosmetics

## LIVING/FAMILY ROOM

- ☐ Clean heavy winter window treatments and decor, then replace them with lighter and brighter alternatives
- ☐ Clean upholstery by vacuuming crumbs, beating out cushions and treating any stains

## KITCHEN

- ☐ Defrost the freezer and vacuum the coils (usually at the bottom, under the grill)
- ☐ Scrub cabinets with wood-safe soap
- ☐ Organize the pantry, cleaning any shelving
- ☐ Wash metal hood vent filters with dish soap

## BEDROOMS

- ☐ Turn the mattresses
- ☐ Wash pillows according to the care label
- ☐ Swap out winter blankets for lighter warm-weather bedding
- ☐ Store winter clothing and pull out your warm-weather wardrobe
- ☐ Donate any clothing you haven't used in a year

## OUTDOOR SPACES

- ☐ Wash hard surfaces; if needed, treat mildew with a mix of 1 part Oxi-Clean to 3 parts water
- ☐ Clean porch ceilings and walls
- ☐ Scrub outdoor furniture with dish soap and water
- ☐ Clean and inspect outdoor lighting





# Our Favorite Cleaning Hacks

## Work Top to Bottom

Working from ceiling to walls to counters to floors guides dust and debris downwards and prevents any re-cleaning of the same areas.

## Put the Dishwasher to Work

Throw any dusty glass ceiling fixtures and light covers in the dishwasher for a zero-effort sparkle. Ditto for children's toys, glass candle holders, and microwave vent screens.

## Use a Pillowcase to Dust Fan Blades

Make quick work of a gross fan blade by enclosing it in an old pillowcase which you then hold shut as you pull it (and the dust bunnies) back off the blade.

## Dust Draperies in the Dryer

For curtains that aren't machine washable, do a quick and easy refresh by throwing them in the dryer for 15 minutes on no/low heat.

## Wash Windows When They're Cool

Direct sunlight heats window glass, causing unsightly streaks to form before you have the chance to wipe them away. Wash them in the morning or on a cloudy day so that you only have to clean them once!

## Let the Microwave Clean Itself

Add a few tablespoons of vinegar or some thin citrus slices to 2 cups of water. Microwave on high for 5 minutes, let sit for another 5 minutes, then easily wipe clean with a paper towel or cloth.

## Use Baking Soda on the Oven Door

Mix baking soda and water to form a thick paste, then spread on the open door and let it sit for 20 minutes. Gently wipe with a microfiber cloth, rise and buff dry for a sparkling finish.

## Shine Stainless Steel with Olive Oil

Put a little olive oil on a cloth and polish away smudges from your stainless-steel appliances/grill.

## Naturally Clean the Dishwasher

Fill a dishwasher safe container with one to two cups of vinegar and place it in the top rack. Run a cycle without dishwasher detergent nor other dishes. Once the cycle is complete, sprinkle roughly a cup of baking soda along the bottom and run another cycle.

## Put Garbage Disposal Gunk on Ice

Put ice cubes down the garbage disposal along with either 1 cup coarse salt or cut up lemon pieces with the peels on. Turn on the cold water and run the disposal until everything is ground up and cleared out. Continue running and flushing for 1 more minute.

## Machine Wash Shower Curtain Liners

Include a small bath towel in the wash to help scour away soap scum + that weird pink stuff. Add 1/2 cup vinegar during the rinse cycle (you can use the fabric softener dispenser) to reduce mold and mildew.

## Descale Your Shower Head

Combine equal parts vinegar and water in a plastic bag. Tie it around your shower head so that it's completely submerged, then soak for at least an hour. Blast the hot water to clear out any residue.

## Use a Lint Roller on Fabric Surfaces

Great for dusting lampshades and removing stubborn pet hair from upholstery.

## Get the Funk Out

Deodorize carpets and mattresses by sprinkling them with baking soda (for carpets, work it in with a brush), letting it sit for 30 minutes, and then vacuuming.

