

Spring cleaning checklist

Everyone has to start somewhere, the key is to not get overwhelmed by how MUCH there might be on the list.

 **Spring cleaning room-by-room**

Hello entryway!

* Remove furniture pieces, wipe them down, and clean
* Wash mirrors/ wipe down frames with a damp rag
* Wipe down any wall décor
* Organize and label keys
* Wipe switch plates  as well as the doors

**Tackle the living areas**

* Move things and wipe down all baseboards with a damp rag (T*ake note of any areas that need touch up work*)  [**These**](https://amzn.to/3G0bfTM) work great for scuffs as well
* Change rags often to keep from spreading dust
* Wipe all wall frames with a damp cloth
* Vacuum ceiling fans well and dust with pledge, check light bulbs if replacements needed
* Wash interior window- Start by vacuuming sills, and washing them with soapy water. Use vinegar and water solution to clean windows, drying with crumpled newspapers or rags
* If needed, lubricate window tracks
* Take down outer screens, clean with a fine hose spray and soapy water *(Note any areas that need to be patched)*
* While screens are drying, clean outer windows
* Clean wood floors, [**here**](http://www.cleanmama.net/2012/07/how-to-wash-hardwood-floors-with.html) is a recipe
* If there is carpet, use a steam cleaner
* Wipe all switch plates down with cleaner
* Vacuum and clean out between and under furniture cushions
* If needed, spot clean or wash cases for throw pillows
* Dust lampshades with a fresh damp cloth, and *(unplugged)* the lamp fixture
* If leather, wipe the couches with [conditioner](https://amzn.to/42Qj1cI)
* Dust shelves completely, removing items and getting the tops
* Vacuum behind the entertainment center, carefully wiping down the TV on the front and back
* Empty out and vacuum and baskets/containers
* Take curtains outside, shake well, and put in the dryer on tumble dry for a few minutes. Spray with Febreze, and rehang
* Clean out any drawers, organize easily and cheaply with ideas from [**here**](http://iheartorganizing.blogspot.com/2013/01/diy-cereal-box-drawer-dividers.html)

**Don't forget the hidden closets**

* Pull all the stuff out and vacuum
* Sort shoes and coats, get rid of outgrown things, and organize what’s left
* Wipe down the baseboards
* Organize and label supplies, [**here is** what I did](https://www.christasterken.com/a-peek-into-an-imperfect-home/) (*Another big job but was worth it)*

**Our kitchens are the hub**

* Clean and vacuum tops of cabinets
* Wipe out and organize cupboards, purge where necessary
* Wipe down the cupboard fronts
* Empty drawers and clean out crumbs
* Clean the inside of the microwave, [here](http://frugalliving.about.com/od/householdsavings/qt/Clean_Microwave.htm) is an easy tip
* Wash down appliance fronts
* Empty and clean out the inside of the fridge
* Check the freezer, and organize it with [**these**](https://www.christasterken.com/how-to-do-a-freezer-inventory-free-pdf-sheet/) ideas
* Organize pantry, check food dates
* Wipe down all baseboards
* Vacuum behind fridge
* Clean light fixtures
* Wash interior window- Start by vacuuming sills, and washing them with soapy water. Use vinegar and water solution to clean windows, drying with crumpled newspapers or rags.
* If needed, lubricate window tracks
* Take down outer screens, and clean with a fine hose spray and soapy water (Note any areas that need to be patched)
* Wipe down any vents
* Take curtains outside, shake well, and put in the dryer on tumble dry for a few minutes. Spray with Febreze, and rehang
* Wash trashcans
* Clean out the dishwasher, ideas are [**here**](http://www.onegoodthingbyjillee.com/2012/02/how-to-clean-your-dishwasher.html)
* Wipe all switch plates down with cleaner
* Mop, making sure to get the corners under the cabinets
* Clean disposal

**The forgotten spots**

* Clean out the water heater closet, check for needed maintenance
* Check light bulbs, take note of what is needed
* Notice areas that need touch-up paint or minor repair work
* Wipe computer keyboards and phones with an antibacterial wipe
* Empty closet if possible, *\*I know this is a big job, I was overwhelmed but really glad once I saw how dirty it was*
* Vacuum well,  and wipe down any shelves
* Organize clothes and donate what doesn't fit, doesn’t match, etc.

**Our stairs and landings  need attention**

* Vacuum well, especially along the edges
* Wash banisters and railings
* Wipe baseboards and switchplates
* Check for carpet stains that need attention

**Pee Yewwww Bathroom time**

* Sanitize  cabinets fronts
* Empty and vacuum out cabinets, organize
* Scrub toilet, (*Borax works great)*, check seals etc. for needed repairs
* Wash trashcans
* Scrub the tub and wipe along the shower inset, check for needed caulking
* Wipe down décor with a damp cloth
* Wipe switch plates
* Wash down baseboards
* Clean mirrors and wipe light fixtures
* Clean air vents, [**here**](http://www.familyhandyman.com/cleaning/how-to-clean-a-bathroom-exhaust-fan/view-all) is an idea
* Wash the shower curtains, and replace liners if needed

**Thanking the laundry for cleaning for us**

* Check for leaks
* Wash appliances
* Run [**refreshing**](http://www.somewhatsimple.com/how-to-clean-your-washing-machine/) cycle for washer
* Check the lint trap and the hose connected to the wall *(ours had MAJOR lint, the* [***potential for fire***](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9l7uXQEljg)***,*** *and we empty the trap often*)
* Wipe baseboards
* Organize cleaning supplies
* Wipe down any vents

“The humblest tasks get beautified if loving hands do them.”---*LOUISA MAY ALCOTT, LITTLE WOMEN*

**Bedrooms deserve extra cleaning love**

* Wipe down and clean ceiling fans, dust
* Clean carpets with a steam cleaner
* Vacuum and dust all shelves
* Wash interior window- Start by vacuuming sills, and washing them with soapy water. Use vinegar and water solution to clean windows, drying with crumpled newspapers or rags.
* If needed, lubricate window tracks
* Take down outer screens, and clean with a fine hose spray and soapy water *(Note any areas that need to be patched)*
* For kids, get rid of toys that aren’t used. Sanitize their play areas with kid-safe cleaners
* Shake out rugs
* Vacuum under beds, and between mattresses
* Wash all bedding. Consider whether linens need refreshing
* While you are here, is it time to add a little less practicality, and a little more restoration? Whether this is through romance or self-care, invest in the place that refreshes your each night