



30-DAY GUIDE FOR SPRING CLEANING

Thinking about Spring cleaning? Here's our 30-day plan to get your home back in shape:

Day 1: Doormat

Start the clean off in the very entrance of your home. Trap more dirt by using two mats, one outside the door and one inside. To refresh, hose off and air-dry mats.

Day 2: Windows

Wait for a cloudy day (but not rainy) and start off on the shaded side of the house. Cleaning the windows in direct sunlight can lead to streaks. Wash your windows with a glass cleaner and paper towels or a microfibre towel for the best result.

Day 3: Microwave

Into the kitchen for a well overdue microwave clean. Place a large bowl with 1 cup of water, chopped up citrus or several tablespoons of vinegar, then turn on high for a few minutes (until your mixture is bubbling), let it sit cool for 15 minutes, then wipe away residue to reveal a sparkling microwave.

Day 4: Chopping boards

If you think that nasty stain on your chopping board is there for good, we have the solution! Rub half of a lemon on the stain to remove it, and for stains that won't budge, a little salt or baking soda will work a treat.

Day 5: Fridge

You probably wipe down your fridge's interior shelving on the regular already, but don't forget about the rest. Pop out the door shelves and bins, and wash in warm, soapy water to get rid of food bacteria and spillage.

Day 6: Pots and pans

Soften any pesky burnt residue by adding water and dishwashing liquid to your cookware and let it simmer on the stove.

Day 7: Oven

Use your appliance's self-cleaning function to remove stubborn, baked-on grime. If your oven doesn't have one, place a hot, wet cloth on top of burned spots to help soften the grease. Then scrub with a heavy-duty cloth and wipe dry.

Day 8: Cabinets

Sticky kitchen grime is a mix of dust and grease that builds up over time. Run the exhaust hood over your range every time you cook to keep grease from settling.

Create a cleaning solution using laundry or dish detergent and water. Mix 1 cup of detergent for every 2 cups of warm water. Apply to your cabinets using a clean cloth or soft sponge. Scrub the cabinets while taking care not to remove or scratch the finish.

Day 9: The Junk Draw

Everyone has one! Start small, empty it out and suck up dust with your vacuum's nozzle. Throw out or relocate any items you no longer need or that don't belong there. Everything else goes back, but this time in an organized manner.

Day 10: Shower Curtain

Did you know you can wash a plastic or vinyl shower curtain in your washing machine? Do it on the gentle cycle with detergent and add a couple of bath towels for extra cleaning power. Then hang it to dry.

Day 11: Pantry Reorganising

Make the most of your pantry space by incorporating shelving organizers. Sort newer products to the back, and pull older items to the front. Check expiration dates, and throw away anything expired.

Day 12: Closet Clean

Go through clothes and shoes from winter and remove anything stained, in need of repair or worn out. Make a second pass through spring and summer clothes as you take them out of storage.

Day 13: Drains

To keep your drains re flowing we love mixing 1/2 cup baking soda with 1/4 cup table salt. Pour the mixture down the drain, then follow with 1 cup heated vinegar. The mixture will foam and bubble. Let it stand for 15 minutes, and then run warm water for 30 seconds. Your drains will be squeaky clean and smelling fresh.

Day 14: Furniture

Keep couches and armchairs clean by vacuuming over both sides of cushions and underneath them.

Day 15: Curtains

Use your dryer to air curtains or bedding. Simply toss drapes, curtains, and even throw pillows in the dryer for 15 minutes on the "air-only" cycle, then rehang immediately to prevent wrinkles.

Day 16: Ceilings

Spring cleaning season is all about focusing on the spots you forget about the rest of the year. Grab an extendable duster and attack ceiling fans, hanging and recessed lights and more.

Day 17: Bedding

It's time to tackle your pillows and duvet. You only need to clean these items two or three times a year, so they should be at the top of your list during spring cleaning

season. But make sure you check the label before throwing them into the washing machine.

Day 18: Mattress

Start off the cleaning process by using your vacuum to clean the top side. Then rinse with a damp cloth and a disinfectant spray and let air dry.

Day 19: Washing machine

A machine that is often forgotten to clean but is super easy. Simply run the special washer cleaning cycle with bleach or using a washing machine cleaner.

Day 20: Dryer

You should already be removing the fuzz from your dryer's filter after every load. For the lint that gets stuck deeper inside your machine, pull out your vacuum to suck up debris and use a thin brush for spots it can't reach.

Day 21: Dishwasher

Shake baking soda on a damp sponge and wipe around the machine's edges to remove stuck-on food or stains. To clean the inside, run an empty cycle with a dishwasher cleaner.

Day 22: Phone

Your phone probably harbours more germs than your toilet seat. That's why you should give it a once over with an alcohol wipe to get rid of germs, as well as other electronics, like your TV remote and computer mouse.

Day 23: Outdoor furniture

With warm weather almost here, it's time to get your outdoor furniture ready for lounging. To do this, add a squirt of dish detergent to a bowl of warm water, then wipe down tables and chairs. Finish it all off with a rise of water.

Day 24: Outside the House

Sweep your patio and deck, as well as around doors and windows to get rid of cobwebs and debris.

Day 25: Oven

Keep the heart of your kitchen clean by lining the bottom with a nonstick oven liner. It can be wiped with a paper towel, put in the dishwasher, and reused over and over.

Day 26: File away items

Papers, odd toys and other things usually pile up on the dining room table or kitchen counter. Once you've got your table cleaned off, file papers or toss them.

Day 27: Home Office

Spend a day getting your files organised and your space de-cluttered. Get important papers in order, and take the time to back up files on external or cloud devices so that they're secured.

Day 28: Bookshelves

Clear off all of the contents from your bookshelves and give them a good dusting and cleaning.

Day 29: Vacuum

Yes, you have to clean your cleaners. Replace the bag, clean the dust cup, and replace or wash the filters. Snip threads and hair twisted in the brush with scissors.

Day 30: - Establish New Cleaning Habits!

Lastly, a good, thorough spring cleaning that includes the whole house is a great time to establish new on-going cleaning habits, and it can also make the next spring clean easier. Simple 15-minute clean up routines practised every few days, each including a series of 2-minute chores can make it remarkably easy to keep your home clean and tidy all year long.

Now...Don't. Touch. Anything. Back away slowly... et voila your home has had its spring clean!

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