

Jumpstart Your Spring Cleaning

Use these ideas to make your home sparkle and shine.

» Rugs, carpets and floors

Vacuum rugs and carpets. Machine-wash or dry-clean area rugs and shampoo wall-to-wall carpeting. Wash and wax floors

» Windows

Remove dust, dirt, and cobwebs with a soft brush. Wash windows inside and out with a mild dilution of either ammonia or white vinegar in water; dry with a squeegee followed by a rag.

» Mattresses and cushions

Vacuum mattresses and box springs. Rotate and flip mattresses before replacing them on springs. Flip sofa and chair cushions.



» Refrigerator and freezer

Unplug refrigerator; discard expired/old food items. Store food in a cooler, wash fridge from top to bottom with warm, sudsy water. Add baking soda to solution to deodorize surfaces

Make-it-yourself cleaning solutions

To make wall cleaner:

Mix 1/2 c. ammonia, 1/4 c. white vinegar, and 1/4 c. baking soda with 1 gal. warm water.

To make spray cleaner:

Fill a bottle with 3 T. ammonia, 1 T. vinegar and the remainder with water.

To clean the shower:

Use a solution of 1/2 c. vinegar, 1 c. ammonia, and 1/4 c. baking soda added to 1 gal. of warm water

To stop white appliances from yellowing:

Mix 1/2 c. bleach, 1/4 c. baking soda, and 4 c. warm water. Apply with a sponge and let set for 10 minutes. Rinse and dry thoroughly.

Did you know?

Your vacuum cleaner needs spring cleaning, too! Cut away threads from the rotating beater, replace the motor's belt if stretched, and install a new bag.

Rubbing alcohol can be used to remove spots from bathroom fixtures.

Glass shower doors will sparkle if cleaned with white vinegar.

» Shades and Curtains

Take down window treatments. Dust slat blinds, and launder curtains and fabric shades. Either hand wash, lightly steam in place, or send to the dry cleaners.

» Wardrobe

Separate clothes into piles: off-season, give away, dry cleaner, tailor. Wash and mend clothes before replacing in closet or storing.

» Filters

Vacuum and clean grates, coils, and condensers on furnaces, refrigerators, stoves and air conditioners. Remove filters in furnaces and air conditioners, and either clean or replace.



Try the Walk Test

Walk around the block or down your condominium hallway. Approach the front door as if you're a visitor. What kind of impression does your home make? Treat yourself with a new welcome mat to create a positive environment for your guests.

Don't forget to perform an annual safety check!

- Check smoke detector batteries frequently; replace every 6 months
- Check batteries in carbon-monoxide detectors and flashlights
- Inspect pressure gauges on fire extinguishers