

Are you ready to get your house into tip-top shape?



Getting into the mindset and picking a place to start might be the toughest part of spring-cleaning. Start with the big projects that are the most noticeable and work down to the nitty-gritty tasks. Don't get overwhelmed from taking on your annual spring-cleaning instead do everything in stages. Before you know it your house will be ready for spring. Here are some tips to clean every part of your house.

The Kitchen



The kitchen can be the biggest and most daunting of tasks. Work around your busy schedule, clean a section each weekend over several weeks, or get creative and have a cleaning party. We also offer our *HouseMaids* service for the deep cleaning.

We're going to tackle the kitchen in stages.



Chrome, glass or stainless steel appliances

- Fill a spray bottle with a mixture of 50 percent rubbing alcohol and 50 percent water.
- Don't use anything abrasive, not even mild products like Soft Scrub or Scotch-Brite pads.
 You don't want to scratch or ruin the surfaces.
- Never use oils to keep away fingerprints lint will stick to oil.
- Don't use cleaners with bleach, it can dry out some surfaces and make them lose their luster.
- Now, scrub out the inside of your microwave oven, too.



Stovetop

 Use a toothbrush to remove caked-on food around the burners, knobs and dials on the stovetop.

Ovens

- Set your oven to self-clean. Be sure to wipe up fresh or major spills before setting it to self-clean.
- Scrub the inside of the microwave.

Pantry & Cabinets

- Organize pantry and cabinets
- Throw out any expired foods

Think about how you can simplify and organize. You haven't used like that lemon zester or apple corer in over a year, fill in the blank. Consider donating items to a charity like Goodwill.



Refrigerator

- Wash the interior with a solution of two tablespoons of baking soda for every quart of warm water.
- Wash removable shelves and drawers in the solution (let glass shelves come to room temperature first so warm water won't crack them).
- Loosen hardened spills on fixed parts by wetting the area with the solution above, allowing the residue to soften.
- Use a toothbrush to scrub into nooks and crannies.
- Vacuum or brush dust from the condenser coils to keep the fridge system from overheating.



Countertops

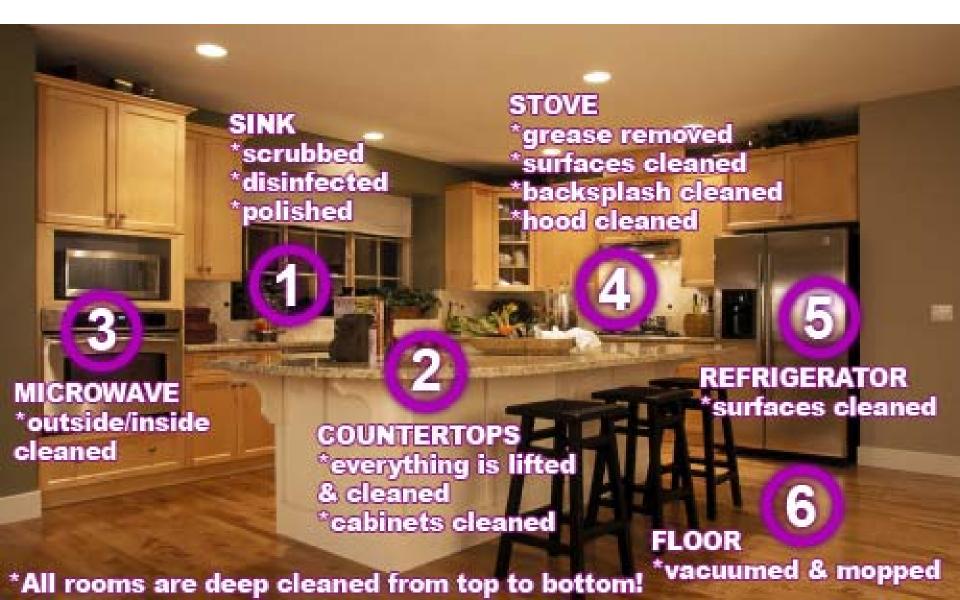
- Remove appliances or cutting boards.
- Use a mild dish washing detergent. Avoid hard abrasives and follow instructions for surfaces like granite or butcher block.
- For heavy duty cleaning, get a soft bristled brush and pH balanced cleaner. There are commercial brands that work well. Make sure that you test these out in a hidden area to make sure that they will not damage the surface of your countertops.
- Gunk in corners and edges can be cleaned using an old toothbrush- This works great to get areas where the sponge can't clean well



Countertops continued

- Get under the lip of the countertop and the back splash area.
- If debris or particles are not coming off easily, use the abrasive side of the sponge or even the edge of a credit card to avoid scratches
- Rinse off any soap or cleanser residue with clean water.
- Wipe off the bottom of appliances before putting them back in place.
- Use a clean terry cloth to dry surfaces, or allow them to air dry.

At HouseMaids, we provide deep cleaning every time by focusing on these six key areas to keep a kitchen clean, fresh and sparkling.



Dining Room



- Dust down the ceiling and corners. Wipe down the walls.
- Dust and clean all wall art. Never spray cleaner or water onto the frame. The liquid can seep behind the glass. Instead lightly wet a clean cloth to wipe the frame and glass.
- Clean the Ceiling Fan. Use a gentle cleanser like Murphy's Oil Soap mixed with water and a cleaning cloth. Take down light fixtures and gently wash and dry them before replacing.
- Dust, then clean chandelier or lighting fixtures.



Dining Room continued

- Take down draperies and curtains to wash or have cleaned according to the directions.
- Wash down the dining table, chairs, and any other furniture thoroughly. Wood furniture needs to be oiled or waxed. Spot clean upholstered seats.
- Clean the carpet and rugs. You can choose to use a carpet professional, rent a cleaning machine, or vacuum and spottreat according to soil level.

Polishing Silver



- Use a toothbrush and silver cleaning cream on your silver, it's not too abrasive and it's water-soluble.
- For really bad black tarnish, Simi Chrome Polish is great.
- For light cleaning, try the disposable treated silver wipe cloths.
- Never put your silver in the dishwasher.
- Store it in anti-tarnish cloth bags when you're not using it.

There are five areas that Housemaids takes care of during a deep cleaning of your dining room.



Bathrooms



Vanity, Mirror, Cabinets

- Clear all items from countertops and wipe down all surfaces with a disinfectant cleanser.
- Use a more abrasive detergent and scrub brush for the sink and any soap residue.
- Wipe down mirrors with a moist cloth and then follow with a solution of one cup of white or distilled vinegar with one quart of warm water. Instead of cloth or paper towels, use newspaper for best streak-free results.

Faucet & Fixtures

 For lime build up, hard-water scale or mildew around faucets, showerheads and other fixtures soak with distilled white vinegar for an hour and the deposits will soften and become easier to remove.



Toilets

- Squirt toilet clean into bowl and up under the rim, scrub thoroughly with toilet brush
- Use a disinfectant cleaner to sanitize the toilet seat and lid on both sides
- Wipe down the outside of the bowl, tank and base
- Check the status of your flapper in the tank. Standard flappers should be replaced yearly.

Shower and Bath Walls

 Spray a generous amount of your choice of bathroom cleaner to the shower or bath walls. Allow cleaners to stand at least 10 minutes while you clean the rest of the bathroom. Then go back and scrub the walls.



De-Clutter

- Throw out any expired medications following local guidelines for disposal.
- Throw out expired makeup and beauty products
- Toss or donate blow dryers, curling irons or straighteners not being used
- Organize bath, beauty products and toiletries
- Add baskets for storage if needed

Dust

 light fixtures, hardware (towel racks, toilet paper dispenser, shower curtain rod), any knick-knacks, medicine cabinets, shelves, ceiling, corners & baseboards, vents, fans and any hanging decorations



Wash

- Wash inside & outside of windows, windowsills
- Launder curtains or any other window treatments
- Wash or replace shower curtain and liner
- Wash bathroom rugs
- Update & replace worn towels

Bathrooms require frequent cleaning and daily attention. The HouseMaids promise is a deep clean of these fives areas every time.



Whole House Tasks



Let's face it, surfaces in every room need the same attention.

Most of us start with dusting.



Deep Dusting

Now is the time to get to all the places you've been neglecting throughout the year. Take it room by room or dust the entire house.

 Equip yourself with a variety of dry cloths, feather duster, pole extender and specialty tools like a ceiling fan duster



Here's a master dusting checklist to follow

- Ceiling fans
- Above kitchen cabinets
- Hanging light fixtures, and the bulbs
- Bulbs in table lamps and inside & outside surfaces of shades
- Plants: natural & artificial
- Louvered shutters
- Electronics (carefully) and appliances
- All furniture
- Back of chairs, curved feet and tables
- Tops of drawers and drawer pulls
- Crossbeams underneath tables



Dusting Checklist continued

- Windowsills and molding on windowpanes
- Baseboards and doorways
- Books on shelves
- Bottom shelves of anything, but especially end tables and coffee tables
- Heater and exhaust vents
- Areas around electric cords that trap circulating dust
- Top of curtains & any window treatments
- Knick-knacks
- Pictures, hanging wall art
- Tops of cabinets

Walls, Doors, Baseboards



- Start with a clean cloth or sponge and water.
- If dirt remains, dip the rag or sponge into water mixed with a little dishwashing liquid, the milder the better.
- If any stains persist, apply a few drops of soap directly onto the wet sponge or cloth you're using.
- For more stubborn cases, you could apply a little soap right onto the stain.
- After you get the stain out, make sure you rinse the wall with plain water.
- Sometimes a scuff or mark is easy to get off with a product like Mr. Clean Magic Eraser

Window Treatments



Getting your window treatments clean can brighten and freshen up an entire room.

- Wash or wipe down blinds
- Send drapes to the dry cleaners, or throw washable curtains into the washing machine
- Some drapes can simply be run through an air-fluff cycle in the dryer with a damp towel for 15 minutes to attract the dust. Always follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Dust down the window casing, wash windowsills, and clean any window hardware and the windows themselves.

Carpet Cleaning



- To keep carpets looking nice you could try taking off your shoes when you get home — but leave your socks or house slippers on because walking around in bare feet leaves natural oils that attract dirt.
- Use a top-load vacuum, so the dirt falls inward, and HEPA filters. Change the filters often, so you don't blow pollutants back into the air.
- For synthetic carpeting, rent or buy a shampooer/extractor – it cleans the fibers and removes traces of soap using hot water.
- Open windows and let air flow to dry carpets.
- For higher-traffic areas, you could bring in a professional to shampoo your carpets three or four times a year.

Area Rugs



- Area rugs should be professionally cleaned every 1 to 5 years — or every 10 years if a rug is not walked on much.
- Over-cleaning can contribute to wear and tear.
 Really fine silk rugs need to be cleaned only every 20 years or so.
- Stains caused by pets, coffee, orange soda, red wine, and anything with dye or an acid base are the hardest to remove. The key is to act quickly.
- For treating stains at home, keep a bottle of club soda on hand. The salt in the soda neutralizes acid in the stain when applied directly.
- contact a professional for cleaning wool rugs, or any that are valuable or delicate,.

Wood Floors



- The keys to keeping your wood floors looking new are to avoid over-sanding
- Use trivets or saucers under plants to avoid water damage
- Use furniture protectors to avoid scratches
- Damp-mop once a week with a mild soap made for wood floors like Murphy Oil Soap.

Tile Floors



- Clean tiles with a cleaner that has "neutral pH" on the label.
- You can also mix baking soda and water for a homemade cleaner: Pour 1/2 cup baking soda into 2 gallons water and mix very well.
- Apply the liquid with a string mop or sponge mop.
- For grout, use the same baking soda and water mixture

Living/Family Rooms



Clean and Dust

- Clean blinds and window treatments, wash blankets
- Wipe down doorknobs, doors, switch plates, inside & outside of windows, windowsills, screens
- Clean or replace doormats from your entryway
- Dust TV and electronics (carefully), lamps, ceiling fans, tables, picture frames or wall art, clean out fireplace, bookshelves, books, and entertainment unit



Upholstered Furniture

- Vacuum pillows, as well as underneath the cushions, and rotate the cushions.
- Dust and wipe down leather furniture with a dry cloth, then use a leather conditioner.
- Look for stains that you might have missed or were unable to deal with immediately and clean according to the care labels.
- Use a portable spot cleaner or wet/dry vac.
- If there's still a residual odor, use a halfvinegar, half-water solution and rinse again.



Reorganize Bookshelves

- Donate any unwanted books to a charity or library.
- Sort books by size and subject.
- Remove and discard any ripped dust jackets (unless you think they might have value).
- Line books in a new & fun way: some vertically, some horizontally, in a rhythmic pattern. This will relieve the monotony of rows.



De-Clutter

- Put away toys, clothes, or personal items that don't belong in the living room
- Organize and donate (or throw out)
 DVDs, CDs, video games and books
- Recycle old magazines or newspapers

Update and freshen

- Change out heavy curtains with light, sheer panels
- Add pillows and accessories in bright colors for spring
- Update family photos in picture frames
- Replace worn rugs

The HouseMaids deep-clean for your living room covers these six zones.



Bedrooms



- Launder all bedding and pillows. Some comforters may need professional cleaning. Always follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Vacuum and turnover mattress.
- Dust ,wipe down and/or polish furniture.
- Dust all decorations, knick-knacks and wall art.
- Carefully dust any electronics: TV, stereo, alarm clocks, etc.



- Clean ceiling, corners, baseboards, ceiling fans, light fixtures, and blinds.
- Gently wash walls, if needed. Clean air vents, doorknobs and switch plates.
- Clean any mirrors
- Launder or get window treatments professionally cleaned
- Clean flooring: carpeting, wood floors, tile, etc.



Your Closet

You will feel much "lighter" after you have finished organizing your closet.

- Declutter your wardrobe. Get rid of unused clothes and accessories.
- Donate gently worn items to charity, where they'll get a second life
- Add torn and stained items to your rag collection, where they'll replace wasteful paper towels.
- Organize the rest of your closet by how you get dressed in the morning or by color. Your closet will look appealing, and your everyday routine will be easier.
- While packing up winter sweaters, instead of stinky mothballs try a natural and better-smelling version, stuff a lonely unpaired sock with cinnamon sticks, bay leaves, and whole cloves and tie it at the end.

Housemaids does more than make the bed and vacuum the floor. We deep clean these four areas of every bedroom.



Create a Different Mood



Enjoy your freshly cleaned home with a fun and easy makeover.

- Using textiles, you can make a fast, easy change with bedding, towels, drapes and table linens to create a different mood.
- Switch things out seasonally, or for a special event, or whenever you want to play with certain colors or patterns.

You might prefer to *enjoy* Spring. Call a Professional Maid Service.

HouseMaids is a family owned and operated full-service house cleaning company that has served the Sarasota, Lakewood Ranch, Lakewood Ranch, <a href=

Consider these benefits you'll receive when you hire HouseMaids:

- Convenient scheduling Monday-Friday
- 24-Hour cleaning guarantee
- State-of-the-art equipment and supplies
- Ongoing staff training for that professional "polish"
- Bonded, licensed and insured staff



Call (941) 953-4300 today for your free estimate and get 50% off your first cleaning appointment.

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