

# Ready, Set ... Spring!

**Spring cleaning time is here. Checklists of what needs to be done can help ensure nothing gets left out. Here's what to look for inside your house.**

Cleaning inside the house is ongoing, as we know only too well. The jobs can, however, be broken down into layers. If there are young children in the family, it's safe to say there may be jobs that need attention on an hourly basis, but for the most part housework chores can be designated as daily, weekly, monthly and seasonal. Where you place a job on the frequency scale is up to you, however here is checklist for the more common seasonal chores.



- **windows** – cleaning, both indoors and out. Make sure to get dust out of the tracks and grooves too.
- **blinds and draperies** – getting rid of the layer of winter grime extends the life and colour of window treatments.
- **chimneys** – clean out the hearth and get the chimney sweep in now rather than in the fall.
- **carpets and underpads** – deep cleaning, either professional or do-it-yourself, gets up dirt the vacuum can't – don't forget to vacuum the underpad under area rugs.
- **clothing storage** – wash or dry clean woollens and other winter wear for summer storage – make sure to store in a dry, well-ventilated area away from light that can fade colours and attract insects.
- **boots and outerwear** – pass along things that are too small and repair or get rid of damaged or orphaned items – make a list of what you'll need to purchase before the snow flies again next winter.

And how about some things we tend to overlook, such as:

- **washing machines** – fill the washer and add 1 cup white vinegar and let it run without laundry to clear out hard-water buildup.
- **steam irons** – clean out the vents with a pipe cleaner.
- **telephones** – clean with rubbing alcohol and use a cotton swab to clean between the buttons.
- **books** – books and bookshelves should be vacuumed once a year.
- **stereo equipment** – vacuum around the stereo with a small brush attachment.
- **wicker furniture** – vacuum to remove dust and clean grime using a toothbrush with a solution of 2 Tbsp. ammonia in a gallon of water and allow to dry out of direct sunlight.
- **mattresses** – turn the mattress regularly to prolong its life and vacuum it at the same time to keep dust down.
- **microwave ovens** – wipe down the inside with baking soda and a damp cloth; to clear out odours, place a slice of lemon in a bowl of water, boil on high till steaming and wipe the inside of the oven with a damp cloth.
- **kitchen chrome** – remove rust from chrome by polishing with the shiny side of a piece of aluminum foil then rubbing with a damp cloth.
- **electric can openers** – loosen dirt with a toothbrush and then run a paper towel through the cutting assembly.
- **top of the refrigerator** – use a solution of 1 part ammonia to 10 parts water and allow to soak on the surface to cut the

grease before wiping with a damp cloth.

Most of the items on this list can be tackled right now. Doing a few chores at a time will make the work seem less daunting. 🌸



■ *Part 1 of this list, published in our previous issue, covered tips for outside the home. It can be found in the Early Spring 2002 archive on the Internet at [www.homedigest.com](http://www.homedigest.com).*

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