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April 2019

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Indoor + Outdoor

Spring Clean

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By Barb Sieminski

The sun is shining liquid gold, trees are greening and birds are giving a concert that Carnegie Hall would envy. As Mother Nature freshens the earth, we are invigorated with a great opportunity to renew our homes. Our checklist should put you on the path to spring-cleaning done right, including a mention of items you might overlook.



Emily Fitzgerald, owner and certified professional organizer of OLS Organizing, offered these useful suggestions:

"Nothing is a better cleaner than a good quality microfiber cloth, dampened with water," she said. "I love the Norwex cloths and the glass-shining one is great for mirrors, glass doors and windows. If you struggle to get motivated to tackle a big job like this, try doing something fun at the same time, like listening to a podcast or book read aloud."

Make a schedule and stick to it room by room before moving on to the next task. Always work from top to bottom. Effectively de-clutter along the way. Gather all your tools together prior to cleaning.

"A gardener's type apron or pants with lots of pockets is helpful to wear so you can have your supplies on you and move quickly without losing your items," said Fitzgerald.

- Vacuum curtains and blinds and use a telescoping pole to dust high corners, as well.
- Windowsills need love, too – dust them, and when they're open to let in delightful breezes, swish a cloth over the tracts, too.
- Clean your microwave by heating lemon juice and rinds in water; after the grime is loosened, wipe the interior clean.
- Organize fridge and cabinets with turntables.
- Lay an outdoor garbage can on its side, squirt some dish detergent inside and spray with water.
- Use disinfectant wipes to sanitize all the doorknobs and locks in the house.
- Stack your spring and summer clothes for easy access in their drawers after tucking your winter clothes away.
- Compressed air is your best friend when crumbs and dirt are clogging your computer keyboard.
- Use a damp toothbrush to clean the grime between the TV remote buttons.
- Wash dirt and allergens from the vacuum cleaner filter by running it through the dishwasher.
- Clean behind the fridge, removing the bottom tray and carefully vacuum dust the coils.

And if an unexpected guest arrives when your home is less than pristine (oh, the horror!), there is a saving grace: Just post a little sign in your living room warning, "Testing in progress. Please do not disturb the dust bunnies." 🏠