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Spring Cleaning Tips for a Total Home Refresh in 2023



Pemberton Holmes
Property Management
**Spring Cleaning
Tips & Tricks**



Most of us are ready to say goodbye to winter for good. After a few long, cold, wet months, we are ready to welcome warmer weather and longer days with open arms! That also means it's time for some **spring cleaning!**

Believe it or not, there are a few good reasons you should look forward to spring cleaning such as getting rid of allergens, reducing stress and boosting your mood.

Whether you love it or hate it, **here are some of our tips to take the stress out of spring cleaning and make the process a lot easier this year.**

Get ready to roll up your sleeves..

1. Make a Plan First

Spring cleaning with a plan is *way* easier than trying to figure it out as you go. Having a good plan will keep you on track, ensure you don't skip anything, and give you a sense of accomplishment as you make progress. Your plan doesn't have to be complicated, but it does need to be realistic. Can you spring clean your whole place in a day? If not, your plan should break it into actionable steps that you can feel good about.

You can check out our **FREE Spring Cleaning Checklist on pg. 5** to help you stay on track

2. Set The Mood To Get Started

After you have thought through your plan of action and have a list of prioritized areas to clean, now its time to muster up the motivation! Put on your favourite music playlist as you get into the groove, or turn on a podcast to get lost in a story as you scrub the floors – after all, time flies when your having fun!

5 Areas To Declutter in 10 Minutes

1. Clear off Kitchen Counters
2. Clean out a junk drawer
3. Take items off dressers and nightstands
4. Clean out the fridge
5. Do one or two pantry shelves



Spring Cleaning Tips in 2023



3. Declutter

Complete a thorough decluttering in each room of your house. If you only complete one spring cleaning task – let it be this one! It's benefits will last for months to come. In the end, your home will contain only the things that actually serve you, and you'll be surrounded by things that make you happy. Think of it as like editing your home. If you need help, refer to our **Spring Cleaning & Maintenance Checklist** for easy to follow steps.

4. Scrub under large appliances with dishwashing soap

Once you have finished the planning and decluttering phase, its time to bring out the cleaning gloves! Little bits of food and dust frequently get trapped under major appliances like the stove, so its important not to miss this step, and not to mention you may need to do this regularly to keep pest issues at bay too.

Start by unplugging the appliances, then sweep up the big debris. Because the dust might get extra sticky when caked with cooking grease, you can also scrub under there with hot water and dish soap to get it extra clean.

5. Sprinkle Salt in the Oven for a Quick Clean

It's never a great surprise when spilled butter, oil or food in the oven starts smoking at high temperatures, but thankfully there is a hack for cleaning up your mess: **table salt**. Pour it over the soiled areas right away for best results. It will immediately stop the smoking and makes it easier to wipe up the mess once the oven has cooled down.



Why Spring Cleaning Actually Makes you Healthier!

- Strengthen Your Immune System by keeping allergies at bay
- Decrease stress and depression by having a clean and less cluttered space
- Prevent illness by minimizing the spread of viruses and bacteria
- Motivate you to organize healthier habits and lifestyle
- Reduce risk of injury by having a clear path and removing obstacles caused by clutter



6. Banish Food Splatters From Your Dirty Microwave

The microwave is always a overlooked appliance that you should put on your spring cleaning checklist. With all the pasta sauce splatters and greasy grime, it can get dirty quickly. Try loosening up the food particles on the microwave walls by **placing a bowl of water and using a high setting to boil the water in the microwave**. If you let it steam up and keep the door closed for a few minutes, you should be able to gently scrub off the food scraps.

7. Don't just dust – wash your vent covers

If it has been a while since you've cleaned your vents, a simple dust cloth isn't going to cut it. Instead, remove the vent cover with a screwdriver and actually wash it in the sink with warm water before drying and screwing it back on. Then after you can get in the habit of dry dusting everytime you clean that room. To get the best of the fresh, spring air, make sure to change out your air filters every 90 days.

Tips for Making Spring Cleaning Easier in 2023



8. Make a DIY drain cleaner

You actually don't need to buy any expensive drain cleaners to unclog the drains, they can usually be tackled with cleaning products you have on hand. We recommend making a DIY cleaning solution with common household items by **pouring baking soda down the drain for traction, followed by white vinegar**, to keep the drains clean and odor-free (it's also better for the environment!). For a serious clog, especially in the shower, consider investing in a drain auger.

9. Use bleach to beat mold and mildew

Generally bleach is a solid choice when dealing with mold and mildew in the bathroom. Try using a toothbrush with a bleach-based product to loosen up spots between your bathroom shower tiles. We recommend you try a small area first, then scrub the product into the affected area and let it sit until the paste dries, then wash it off. If this spring cleaning hack fails to remove the black mould from your grout, you may want to consider regrouting. To keep mold and soap scum from getting out of hand, **we recommend you get into the habit of scrubbing the tiles and grout on a weekly basis, or use a squeegee after every shower or bath**. This will cut your bathroom cleaning time in half.



10. Clean under furniture and rugs

The phrase “where the sun do’t shine” can certainly apply to that neglected space under the couch, also known as no-man’s land for missing basically everything. Take the time to roll back heavy furniture and rugs and clean there even if no one is going to see it.

11. Don’t forget the Windows & Blinds!

It takes little time to quickly dry-dust the blinds and hard to reach areas each week with a duster, but if that has not been done in a while, then a detailed cleaning might be required. Make sure to be extra careful with blinds by not tugging or pulling when dusting. You can spray an all-purpose cleaner directly on the blind and then wipe each slat individually.

If you have **fabric blinds**, the best way to clean them is by using your vacuum’s upholstery attachment. For soil removal, you can use a dry fabric cleaner or a sponge with mild detergent and warm water solution and blot dry.

Don’t forget your windows too! Start by steam cleaning the window frame, then wipe away the grime with a microfibre cloth. To make your windows sparkle, use a glass cleaner on both sides of the window to ensure there are no smudges. Check the caulking around your windows for dry, cracked or missing caulking. If you find any problems, scrape off the old caulking before applying a new strip again. Keeping windows properly sealed ensures a more efficient use of energy.

12. Clean the Rain Gutters

Last but not least, make sure your gutters are clear of any debris. Your gutters divert rainwater away from your home’s foundation, helping prevent erosion and cracking. Especially during the fall and winter season they can collect more than just rainwater. Leaves, pine needles, dirt, seeds, and other debris can build up in your gutter system, obstructing water flow and causing various problems. To keep them in working order, **we recommend cleaning them at least once or twice a year.**

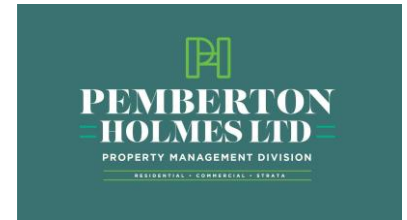
First, check the walls around the gutters and downspouts for water damage that may indicate the drainage system is not working properly – it might be clogged. Clean all the dirt and remove any debris that may be causing the blockage. This will ensure that rain water can continue to flow freely and directed away from your home.



Make sure to print out our PHPM Spring Cleaning & Maintenance Checklist on the next page to help you get started and ensure you stay on track!

Pemberton Holmes Property Management

Spring Cleaning & Maintenance Checklist



Kitchen		
<input type="checkbox"/> Clean Oven and oven hood	<input type="checkbox"/> Wipe up spills in fridge	<input type="checkbox"/> Dust blinds and vacuum curtains
<input type="checkbox"/> Wipe down stovetop	<input type="checkbox"/> Throw out old food	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash windows
<input type="checkbox"/> Wipe countertops	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean outside of appliances	<input type="checkbox"/> Wipe cupboard doors & baseboards
<input type="checkbox"/> Clean Microwave	<input type="checkbox"/> Scrub and shine sink	<input type="checkbox"/> Degrease cabinets & walls
<input type="checkbox"/> Sweep	<input type="checkbox"/> Shake or vacuum rugs	<input type="checkbox"/> Disinfect handles & switches
<input type="checkbox"/> Wipe up spots on the floor	<input type="checkbox"/> Mop floors	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean small appliances
<input type="checkbox"/> Take out trash	<input type="checkbox"/> Empty Pantry	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash trash can
Bathroom		
<input type="checkbox"/> Spray & wipe shower walls	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean tubs	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean showerhead
<input type="checkbox"/> Clean mirror	<input type="checkbox"/> Wipe door/knobs	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash windows
<input type="checkbox"/> Wipe the sink and counter	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean outside of toilet	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash rugs
<input type="checkbox"/> Clean the toilet bowl	<input type="checkbox"/> Empty trash	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash trash can
<input type="checkbox"/> Wipe toilet seat and rim	<input type="checkbox"/> Shake or vacuum rugs	<input type="checkbox"/> Mop floors
<input type="checkbox"/> Wash shower curtain & bath mat	<input type="checkbox"/> Organize medicine cabinet	<input type="checkbox"/> Wipe & dust vents
<input type="checkbox"/> Unclog sink & shower drain	<input type="checkbox"/> Dust & wipe baseboards	<input type="checkbox"/> Wipe walls
Bedrooms		
<input type="checkbox"/> Make bed	<input type="checkbox"/> Donate unused clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> Straighten shoes
<input type="checkbox"/> Organize nightstand	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash sheets, duvets, pillowcases	<input type="checkbox"/> Straighten drawers
<input type="checkbox"/> Put clothes away	<input type="checkbox"/> Dust surfaces & polish furniture	<input type="checkbox"/> Dust blinds/vacuum curtains
<input type="checkbox"/> Dust & wipe baseboards	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum floors & rugs	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash windows & window sills
<input type="checkbox"/> Organize closet	<input type="checkbox"/> Deodorize carpet with baking soda	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum around the edges of room
Living/Family Rooms		
<input type="checkbox"/> Clean up the clutter	<input type="checkbox"/> Dust all surfaces	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean mirrors/dust pictures
<input type="checkbox"/> Straighten pillows/cushions	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum floors	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean electronics
<input type="checkbox"/> Straighten coffee/end tables	<input type="checkbox"/> Straighten books, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Dust blinds/vacuum curtains
<input type="checkbox"/> Wipe spots off tables	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean or dust lamp shades	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash windows
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum underneath couch	<input type="checkbox"/> Sanitize remote controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum couch cushions
<input type="checkbox"/> Wash blankets and pillows	<input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo rug or carpets	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum around the edges of room
Home Office		
<input type="checkbox"/> Clean up the clutter	<input type="checkbox"/> File Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean mirrors/dust pictures
<input type="checkbox"/> Sort mail	<input type="checkbox"/> Dust surfaces	<input type="checkbox"/> Dust blinds/vacuum curtains
<input type="checkbox"/> Recycle unneeded paperwork	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum floors	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash windows
<input type="checkbox"/> Dust bookshelf	<input type="checkbox"/> Sanitize keyboard & mouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum around the edges of room
Laundry/Common Areas		
<input type="checkbox"/> Laundry - clothes	<input type="checkbox"/> Dust shelves	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean insides of washer/dryer
<input type="checkbox"/> Sweep hallways	<input type="checkbox"/> Wipe washer/dryer	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash windows
<input type="checkbox"/> Replace furnace filters	<input type="checkbox"/> Sanitize light switches & handles	<input type="checkbox"/> Change filters on AC units
<input type="checkbox"/> Test smoke alarms	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash bedding and towels	<input type="checkbox"/> Mop hallways
<input type="checkbox"/> Clean light fixtures	<input type="checkbox"/> Remove lint from dryer vent	<input type="checkbox"/> Replace light bulbs as needed
Garage / Exterior		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pick up clutter, sort equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Sweep entry and steps	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash exterior windows
<input type="checkbox"/> Remove debris from gutters	<input type="checkbox"/> Sweep garage floor	