

A Step-By-Step Guide to Spring Cleaning Your Apartment (And Still Having a Life)

By: Gabrielle Savoie

Spring-cleaning: we secretly dread it, and we procrastinate for as long as we can until we finally give in. It's no secret that spending an entire weekend cleaning sounds like an absolute nightmare—but with a little elbow grease and a lot of willpower, it's actually a lot easier than it sounds. Best of all: Once we finally finish the last task and get to enjoy the results of our blood, sweat, and tears, it's entirely worth it. Our space feels squeaky clean, it smells nice, and somehow, it seems to bring the warm spring weather inside.

So how can you tackle the spring-cleaning of your apartment without getting overwhelmed? It all starts with clever planning (and a little help from your friends). Start with a schedule that clearly indicates each task, hour-by-hour, and the scheduling of moral (and physical) support when required. Make sure you can tackle everything in one weekend—no one wants spring-cleaning to take over their lives. Want to be extra motivated? Dangle a carrot at the end—plan a spring cocktail party—and you'll have no choice but to get it done. Ahead, we tapped three professionals to share their best spring-cleaning tips with us—just pick and choose the tasks that apply to you. **Don't procrastinate until Memorial Day—spring-cleaning starts now.**



ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON: Proceed Room-by-Room

Ban dust bunnies. “Start from the top of the room and work your way down,” says professional home stager Tori Toth. “Wipe down the ceiling, fan or light fixtures, the walls, baseboards, and all the furniture in the room. Make sure to move appliances and look high and low to remove all dust.”

Clean Stainless Steel. Give your appliances an inside-out makeover. “To clean your stainless steel, start by putting a small amount of Dawn on your cloth, rub it into the cloth, and rub with the grain,” Toth says. “Take a second microfiber cloth, put a few drops of baby oil on it and again, rub with the grain of the metal. I love this eco-friendly solution to a super common problem.”

ON SUNDAY MORNING: Clean Forgotten Spaces

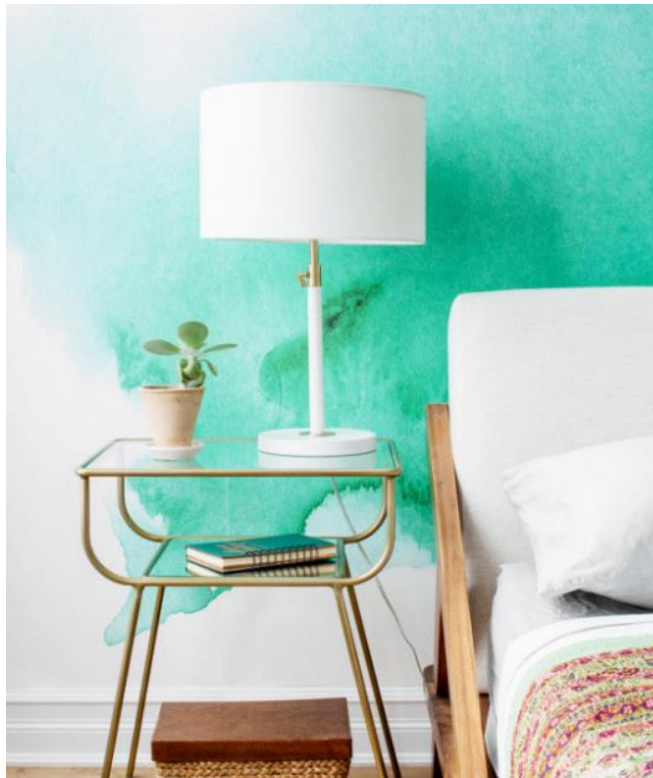


Wash your fabric. “The fabric around a home can collect dust and bacteria,” Toth says. “Plan on washing curtains, pillows, blankets, bedding, and rugs. Have carpets? Now is the time to shampoo them to get rid of winter’s foot tracks. Also be sure to vacuum furniture and mattresses.” Take a few minutes to flip your mattress, which should be done every six months or so.

Wash your windows. “Use a glass cleaner and a squeegee, no real scrubbing required,” Toth says. “You will add double the light in your home if you wipe away the grime of the cold winter months.”

Make your grout shine. Go beyond your average bathroom cleaning. “If you have tile around the home, chances are your grout has seen better days,” Toth says. “This is a tedious task, but schedule some time to clean those grout lines with a grout stain or bleach pen to restore the color and refresh the room. Make sure to re-chalk areas that are discolored around tubs or sinks too.”

ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON: Bring Life Back



Add a potted plant. “Flowers and grass will begin to grow this spring, so add some life in your space too,” Toth says. “You can easily add a pop of color or some life to your space by freshening up your plants. Get in the mood for spring with a fresh scented candle, and enjoy the fruit of your labor with a glass of wine.”

Link: <http://www.mydomaine.com/spring-cleaning-your-apartment>