



Resident Reporter

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Spring Cleaning

■ Get a fresh start this spring by doing a little spring cleaning around your home. Included in this month's *Resident Reporter* are tips for the big cleaning jobs and small jobs, too.

If you want to start with the big jobs first, here are some ideas:

- ◆ Wash, wash, wash...windows, draperies, blinds and shades, floors and bedding (don't forget about the mattress pad and dust ruffle).
- ◆ The vacuum is not only good for vacuuming your carpet and floors this spring, also use it on your window screens. Move all your furniture and appliances and vacuum those areas, too.
- ◆ During the winter months, dust has been accumulating. It's time to dust your lamps and shades, knick-knacks and books. And get all those pesky cobwebs in all the 'crannies of your home, floor and ceiling.
- ◆ Clean your oven and sort and clean out kitchen cupboards and drawers.
- ◆ Organize your closet; give items you no longer want to charity and pack away winter items in an easily accessible place. If you have spring and summer items stored, get those out, wash and start enjoying wearing shorts!
- ◆ Organize all your CDs and DVDs.
- ◆ Go through old mail and sort documents that need to be stored. *Always shred* mail and documents no longer needed.
- ◆ Donate books and magazine to a local charity and take a stack to your local hospital or nursing home.



Big jobs done in two shakes of a lamb's tail

Want to finish with your spring cleaning in a snap? Here's some ways to take on your big projects and get them done fast so you can go and enjoy the sunshine.

- ◆ Washing Windows-Are cloudy days still in your future? Wash your windows when it's cloudy or dark outside...the sun's ray's cause streaking. Save a tree by using a washable micro fiber cloth, along with your favorite window-cleaning solution. When the cloth is dirty, rinse with warm water or throw it in the washer. To wash your windows outside, invest in a nifty outside window cleaner. Many are sold at your local grocer, hardware or discount stores. Many require no ladders, just spray on and walk away.
- ◆ We always put off cleaning the blinds and draperies, because it is usually such a big job (hence, once a year during spring cleaning). If your blinds and drapes are very dirty, let a professional clean them (and then you can have time to do something fun instead of cleaning). The phone book will have many options for this type of service. If your blinds aren't too dirty, vacuum with a brush attachment (don't forget to close your blinds). You may also use a micro fiber cloth

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Resident Reporter

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

- to dust the blinds by hand.
- ◆ Dirt hides in dark places, and your cabinets are no exception! In your kitchen, start by emptying all your cupboards...a perfect opportunity to throw away any unwanted items. Clean the shelves with a micro fiber cloth. You may need to use a multipurpose cleaner and scrubber sponge. Now is a perfect time to line your cabinets with plastic mesh so all your items will not break or slide around.
- ◆ Your furniture also needs the special treatment. Take off all upholstered furniture cushions and vacuum deep in the furniture. If you can wash your cushions, do so. Or, you can have professional upholstery cleaner come in and get the job done for you.

Don't have time to do all this deep cleaning?

Do some of the jobs yourself and hire professionals to do the rest. For example, you can take charge of the kitchen and hire a company to do the windows, blinds, and upholstered furniture. Have them clean your carpets with a low residue cleaner while they're at it!

Resources:

My Great Home® -The online resource for manufactured and modular home owners. http://www.mygreathome.com/indoors/organization/spring_cleaning.htm. Copyright 2005 Foremost Insurance Company.

Real Simple-<http://www.realsimple.com/realsimple/gallery/0,21863,1044108,00.html>. April 2001. Copyright 2006 Time Inc. 800.881.1172

Plant a Beautiful Butterfly Garden

How to plant a butterfly garden available on the WMA website today!

Go to www.wma.org

- 980 Learn how to plant a raised-bed butterfly garden
- 800 Learn what types of plants to grow in your garden; and
- 800 The type of butterfly you'll attract to your garden

Explore www.wma.org, click on News, select Resident Reporter and find the featured Butterfly Garden Guide

Want a color guide mailed to you? Contact Amanda Pierce at 916.448.7002. Quantities are limited.