

February Home Checklist

9 Things to Do Around Your Home This Month. Some maintenance tasks only need to be done once or twice a year. The problem is that we forget to do them once or twice a year.

Or else, we tend to save it all for spring cleaning which makes spring cleaning such a daunting chore that it doesn't occur, either.

The best plan is to break annual and seasonal tasks down by month and attack them on a scheduled basis.

Nothing gets too backed up and things eventually get done. And without a major life overhaul.

I also found that concentrating on one room each month is more rewarding because you can really see results.

Here's the schedule that has worked best for me:

1 Nesting Instinct

Clean all bed linens, including comforters, duvets, bed skirts, pillows, etc. Launder what you can; dry-clean the rest.

2 The Spin Cycle

Fluff up down pillows with a short spin in the dryer (no heat, please).

3 On the Flip Side

Turn the mattresses.

4 Linens & Things

This is an especially good time to clean out your linen closet. Rotate little used linens and towels to the front lines. Launder everything.



5. Shelf Life

Clean bookshelves. Take everything down and dust. Now consider very carefully what you return to the shelf.

Does it really deserve to be there? Or would it be happier in a second-hand bookstore?

6. By the Book

Vacuum each book before you reshelv it using the vacuum cleaner's soft brush attachment.

7. Clean Air Act

: Replace the filter in your heating unit.

8. Up Against the Wall

Check walls for nail holes, blemishes, scuffs. Clean or repair.

9. Heavy Thoughts

Get your beefy significant other to help you move all the large appliances out from the walls so you can vacuum behind and underneath them. Change the water filter for the fridge while you're back there.