

Home Cleaning and Maintenance Checklist: 10 Things to Do in November.

Some 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 home 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 for November.

1 Remember Mother Hubbard:

Clean the kitchen cabinets inside and out. Put in fresh liner paper. Throw out foods that your kids will never eat, no matter how hungry. Check for expired foods.

2 Drawer duty:

Clean, paper and reorganize all kitchen drawers. Bring to the fore utensils you will need for holiday baking and cooking.

3 A self-cleaning stove?

Ha ha! That's a good one! But seriously, clean the oven.

4 Cold zone:

Clean under and behind the fridge. And while you're in the neighborhood, strip off the six-month's accumulation of art and notes from the fridge door. Wash it and leave it bare for a change. (Well, at least till Friday.)

5 Water taste funny?

Change the filter.

6 Make room for guests:

Clean the entry closet and put in extra hangers for winter coats.

7 Floor show:

Clean the carpets before the holiday parties.

8 And while the guys are there:

Get them to clean your upholstery. You'll probably get a package deal.

9 Got a free moment?

Clean your major appliances – washing machine, dryer, dishwasher, etc. They'll all function more efficiently.

10 Last but not least:

Update your address books while you're sending out the holiday cards.