

Deep Cleaning

Here's a list of our recommendations to revive and refresh your home after the winter months.

THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE	
Wipe Walls and Ceilings Use a vacuum to remove dust. Tackle stubborn surface grime with a solvent-free degreaser (test it first in an inconspicuous area to ensure it won't mar the surface).	
	Clean Light Fixtures Remove the flanges of the light fixtures and scrub them with soap, dust off the remaining elements and change out grimy/burnt light bulbs.
Vacuum and Shampoo Rugs Synthetic carpets and rugs with waterproof backings can be deep-cleaned with a rotary shampoo machine and a hot-water extraction machine. Rugs without backings, including Orientals, require professional cleaning.	
	Dust Books and Shelves Take everything off the shelves, and brush shelves and books with a feather duster. Use the dust-brush or crevice tool on a vacuum to reach into tight spots. Wipe the spines of leather-bound books with a clean, soft cloth.
Clean Upholstered Furnishings Take cushions outside and gently beat them by hand to remove dust. If there are stains, check the pieces for care labels. Use a vacuum's upholstery and crevice tools to clean under seat cushions.	
	Polish Metal Door and Window Hardware Liquid polishes and polish-impregnated cloths work well for medium-tarnished surfaces; pastes and creams are for heavier work. If tarnish doesn't come off, try a stronger product.
Dust Your Home Thoroughly This includes hard-to-reach places, such as the tops of ceiling fans and window casings. Always work from the top of a room down, vacuuming the dust that settles on the floor. Avoid using dusting sprays.	
	Wax Wooden Furniture Wipe surfaces with a soft cloth dampened with water and mild dishwashing liquid. Apply paste wax, such as Butcher's wax, a few feet at a time with a cotton rag folded into a square pad. Let wax dry; buff with a clean cloth.
Ensure Fire Safety Change batteries in smoke detectors (this should be done twice a year), and make sure units are free of dust. Teach everyone in your household how to use a fire extinguisher, and review escape plans.	
	Wash Window Screens Using warm water and a mild dishwashing liquid, scrub each screen with a brush; rinse thoroughly.

Clean Window Treatments

Many draperies and curtains are machine washable; check labels. Dry-clean fabric shades. Wipe wooden blinds with a damp cloth; warm water mixed with a mild dishwashing liquid is safe for metal and vinyl blinds.

ROOM BY ROOM

KITCHEN

Clean and Degrease Area Behind Stovetop

Remove any decorations or items from the area, then apply a degreasing cleaner with a cloth or sponge, scrubbing gently to remove grease and stains. Rinse with clean water and dry with a towel for a spotless finish.

Wipe Cabinets

Remove any items from the shelves. Mix a solution of warm water and mild dish soap. Dip a soft cloth or sponge into the solution and gently scrub the cabinet surfaces, paying special attention to areas with grease or stains. Rinse the cloth or sponge frequently and finish with clean water to remove any soap residue.

Deep Clean the Refrigerator

Remove all the items from the refrigerator, checking expiration dates and discarding any spoiled or expired food. Take out shelves, drawers, and bins to clean them separately with warm, soapy water. Wipe down the interior surfaces of the fridge with a mixture of water and baking soda to remove odors and stains..

LIVING ROOM

Swap Heavy Curtains, Rugs, and Throws for Lightweight Ones

Clean items first. To store, roll material around an acid-free tube; wrap in a clean sheet of cotton, muslin, or polyethylene; secure with twill tape, and label each bundle so you'll know which is which.

Deep Clean the Sofa

Remove the cushions. Use a vacuum's upholstery attachment to clean the surface and crevices, removing dirt and debris. Check the care label for cleaning instructions. For fabric couches, spot clean stains with a mild detergent solution and a soft cloth. For leather or vinyl, use a cleaner made for those materials.

BEDROOMS

Rotate Beds and Change Blankets

Turn over your mattress to distribute the wear evenly. Replace cool-weather bedding with warm-weather bedding.

Clean Pillows

Whether made of natural fibers (such as down) or synthetic (often polyester), most pillows can be machine-washed. This rids them of mold, bacteria, and odors.

BATHROOMS

Deep Clean Toilet

Pay extra attention to the outer portions that tend to collect dust and grime.

Wash or Replace Shower Curtain

Replace plastic linings that tend to collect soap scum and wash your linens following the care instructions for your curtain.

<p>HOME OFFICE</p>	<p>Organize Files Review insurance policies, contracts, and household inventories.</p> <p>Clean Computers Scrub casings with a solution of 1 drop mild dishwashing liquid per 1 quart of water and a lint-free cloth; dust crevices in keyboards with cotton swabs; wipe screens with a soft cloth or a dry screen-cleaning sponge.</p>
<p>CLOSETS</p>	<p>Replace Cool Weather Clothing with Warm Weather Clothing Wash or dry-clean garments before storing them in a zippered sweater or blanket bag.</p> <p>Donate Apparel You No Longer Use Many charities are happy to accept old clothing and may send a truck to pick it up. They may also provide receipts for tax purposes.</p>
<p>UTILITY SPACES</p>	<p>Clean Attic and Basement Giving Away Unwanted Items Divide whatever is left into two zones: one for things you'll need to retrieve in the next six months, such as clothes, and the other for objects that may be there for years, such as furniture.</p> <p>Protect Objects in Basement Use concrete blocks to keep storage boxes off the ground. Place washer and dryer on elevated pedestals (made by the appliances' manufacturers) to prevent electrical shock during flooding.</p>
<p>OUTDOOR SPACES</p>	<p>Clean Porch Ceilings and Walls Sweep up cobwebs and debris with a corn broom, and wash walls with a solution of all-purpose cleaner and water using a polyester sponge.</p> <p>Scrub Decks, Patios, Driveways, and Walkways Treat mildew spots with a solution of 1 part oxygen bleach to 3 parts water using a deck brush.</p> <p>Wash Outdoor Furniture Most materials, including aluminum, plastic, wood, and wicker, can handle a solution of mild dishwashing liquid and water and a soft-bristle brush.</p> <p>Inspect Light Fixtures Wash covers and check for damaged wires and connections.</p>

Help from Inleit:

Let us know if you would like additional information on completing any of these tasks. For some tasks, we can recommend preferred contractors and would be more than happy to help coordinate the projects for you.