

Thanksgiving Cleaning Checklist

What to clean, when to clean it, and what can wait. Check off each task as you go.

Short on time? Clean these five spots first.

- ☐ Kitchen counters and fridge space
 ☐ Guest bathroom
 ☐ Dining table and chairs
 ☐ Entryway
 ☐ Floors in between

1 The weekend before

Declutter and clear the fridge

- ☐ Declutter the rooms guests will see
- ☐ Box up donations, bag the trash, close off unused rooms
- ☐ Clear a fridge shelf for the turkey (16 to 20 lb needs 4 to 5 days to thaw at 40°F or below)
- ☐ Check dates and how long items have been open
- ☐ Wash fridge shelves with warm, soapy water
- ☐ Deep-clean the oven per its manual, if needed

2 Monday

Living and dining areas

- ☐ Knock down cobwebs, working top to bottom
- ☐ Dust fans, light fixtures, lamp shades and shelves
- ☐ Wipe mirrors, picture glass and interior windows
- ☐ Vacuum floors, rugs and upholstery, under the sofa too
- ☐ Wash guest bedding if anyone is staying over

3 Tuesday

Guest bathroom

- ☐ Clear the counter, tub ledge and back of the toilet
- ☐ Clean the sink, faucet, tub, shower and toilet
- ☐ Scrub grout lines and mildew-prone corners
- ☐ Wipe the mirror, light switch and door handle
- ☐ Launder the bath mat, curtain liner and hand towels
- ☐ Mop the floor, restock toilet paper and soap

4 Wednesday

Kitchen and table

- ☐ Wipe counters, backsplash and cabinet fronts
- ☐ Clean the stovetop, microwave and small appliances per their care instructions
- ☐ Empty the dishwasher, wash stored serving pieces
- ☐ Check the sink and disposal for slow drains
- ☐ Take out the trash and recycling, add fresh liners
- ☐ Mop the kitchen floor last
- ☐ Set the table, sweep the porch and entryway

5 Thanksgiving morning

The 15-minute refresh

- ☐ Wipe the bathroom sink and mirror, add a fresh towel
- ☐ Empty the kitchen trash and the dishwasher
- ☐ Clear counters for carving and serving
- ☐ Sweep the entryway, fluff pillows, turn on lamps
- ☐ After handling raw turkey, wash surfaces and the sink with hot, soapy water, then sanitize
- ☐ After dinner, refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours

Set out a spill kit

- Paper towels and a clean white cloth
- Dish soap and a stain remover
- Blot spills right away, don't rub
- Keep it all in one spot for the day

These can wait until December

- Washing every window inside and out
- Closet and storage cleanouts
- Reorganizing the pantry
- Bedrooms nobody will enter
- The garage and basement

Safety reminders

- Never mix cleaning products
- Follow each label for ventilation and gloves
- No vinegar or lemon on marble or limestone
- Keep kitchen and bathroom cloths separate
- Grease goes in the trash, not the drain