



Spring Time = Spring Cleaning

Spring cleaning is a time-honored tradition. After a long winter, you throw open the windows, let in fresh air, and scrub down the house. But modern spring cleaning presents challenges your grandmother never imagined. Today's homes are bigger, and the choice of cleaning supplies seemingly endless.

While you'll need to devote a day or two to this annual maintenance project, make it less of a chore by picking the right tools and methods. And by taking an environmentally friendly approach, you can also protect the well-being of your family.

Give this space-by-space cleaning guide a whirl this spring—or during any season, for that matter, when grime and clutter become unbearable.

Bathrooms

When it's time to get down and dirty, many people start with the bathroom. Allen Rathey, founder of The Housekeeping Channel, says removing mineral deposits, rust, and such from toilets doesn't have to mean chemical warfare. Put on rubber gloves and use a pumice stone to erase stubborn stains. If you want more scouring power, Rathey recommends mixing baking soda with acidic vinegar. The concoction is just as effective as conventional cleaners, and there are no toxic fumes to inhale. This approach works equally well on tub and shower stains.

Reminders

- * Please remember to return all Publix carts to Publix and carts are NOT permitted inside of the buildings.
- * We have been getting some noise complaints, please be courteous to you neighbors and keep your noise levels to a minimum.
- * Please take pride in your home, please keep your balconies clean and free of cob webs.
- * Save time and pay your rent online!!!!

Buy your supplies in bulk to save. A 64-ounce bottle of vinegar costs about \$4; a 12-pound bag of baking soda, about \$7. Both items can be used throughout the house. For just \$1 you can mix equal parts

vinegar and water in a 32-ounce spray bottle to make a terrific all-purpose surface cleaner. That's about \$4 cheaper than buying a spray cleaner at the store.

Spring cleaning is the perfect time to extract dirt from porous grouted surfaces. For tile floors use your usual cleaner, but don't mop. Instead, run a wet/dry vac, which will suck contaminants out of the grout. Mopping drives the grime into the grout rather than removing it. According to Rathey, grout can harbor stinky bacteria that leave a bad odor in the bathroom. This technique is more time-consuming than mopping, but it's worthwhile to do at least once a year.

Kitchens

The kitchen can be a tough room to clean because there's usually so much stuff in it, says Justin Klosky, founder and creative director of The OCD Experience, an organizational service. Before you break out the broom, go through your cabinets and drawers, and put together a box of items to donate and a box of items to store somewhere besides the kitchen. Clear your countertops of everything except items you use nearly every day.

After you've de-cluttered, you can get to work cleaning. Cloud Conrad, vice president of marketing for cleaning company Maid Brigade, says one tool you shouldn't overlook is an all-purpose microfiber cloth (about \$5). These aren't run-of-the-mill dusting rags. Microfiber is a densely woven synthetic fabric that picks up dirt and greasy deposits without chemicals thanks to its unique composition. You should be able to clean surfaces like countertops, sinks, and stoves with warm water, a microfiber cloth, and a bit of elbow grease, Conrad says.

Since you prepare your food in the kitchen, consider using green commercial products for surfaces, or make your own vinegar/water spray. Conventional cleaners may remove dirt, but they can also harbor some nasty substances you don't want in your Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwich.

Microfiber, vinegar, and baking soda will clean and disinfect almost every kitchen surface at a fraction of the price. Don't neglect once-a-year chores like vacuuming refrigerator coils (unplug your fridge first), and tossing out expired food from the back of the pantry.

Bedrooms

Since bedrooms are such individual spaces, there's a lot of diversity in what needs to happen. Most homeowners should at least rotate and flip innerspring mattresses, and store out-of-season sheets and clothing. Also go through your closet, and donate or Freecycle items you haven't worn in the last 12 months. For carpets and mattresses, consider using a professional cleaning service. Figure a typical mattress will cost about \$70-\$90 to clean, a bargain considering how much time you spend in bed.

Even if you're getting your carpet professionally cleaned, you still need to break out the vacuum, says Leslie Reichert, owner of The Cleaning Coach. Use the hose attachment to get to the hidden particles along baseboards, under your bed, and in your curtains, favorite environments of dust mites. If you have a large-capacity dryer, throw curtains in on high heat for good measure to kill the little pests.

Living area

Another surface you should consider getting professionally cleaned is living room upholstery. It can be tricky to know exactly how to deep-clean different types of fabrics, says Rathey, especially if there are stains you can't quite identify. Costs vary widely depending on the size of the furniture piece and the quality and state of its covering, but a typical sofa might run \$70 to \$90.

Microfiber cloths are great to use in the living area as well. Make sure you have cloths for each area of the house, though, so you're not cross-contaminating bathroom, kitchen, and living areas. Use a damp microfiber cloth to wipe down windows, wood, mirrors, the tops of bookshelves, ceiling fan blades, and even the plastic housing of electronics for a quick, chemical-free clean. *Article by: [Houselogic](#)*

Nothing to do??? Join the fun!!



4.6 FIRST FRIDAY FESTIVAL will be 5:30-9:30 p.m. on Friday, April 6, along New Broad Street in the Village Center. More than 70 local artisans of all genres will display their art while guests shop and stroll through the heart of downtown Baldwin Park. Also featured are many Central Florida-based small businesses and non-profit organizations with products and offerings ranging from health and fitness, to beauty and fashion, as well as community service opportunities. This FREE sidewalk festival is held the First Friday of every month from 5:30-9:30 p.m., and is both family- and pet-friendly. Sponsored by the **Baldwin Park Joint Committee, Bloom-Kee Realty, Renewal by Anderson, Planet Fitness and Consult BOOM**. For more information please visit <https://www.baldwinparkevents.com/first-fridays-2018>

4.7 SEMI-ANNUAL PORCH SALE & FLEA MARKETS will be 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday, April 7, community-wide. "Flea Markets" will be set up at Enders Park, High Park, and at Corrine Commons in front of Grace Hopper Hall. **RESIDENTS:** Please email Suz Tapy at STapy@BaldwinParkpoa.com with your address to be listed on the map and a BRIEF general description of the items you will be selling. [Click here](#) for a link to the map.

4.14 9TH ANNUAL WOUNDED WARFIGHTER LONE SAILOR 5K/10K, presented by the Central Florida Navy League (CFNL), will be 7 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 14, at Blue Jacket Park. This event's primary goal is to raise money for charities that support wounded service men and women and the Central Florida military communities. Over the years, the CFNL has raised more than \$300,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project, Building Homes for Heroes, The Camaraderie Foundation and the Lone Sailor Memorial of Central Florida. For more information and to register, please visit <http://cfnavyleague.org/>

4.14 ANNUAL SPRING FEST will be 3 - 7 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at Baldwin Park Elementary School. Did you know "aloha" means hello and goodbye? The Baldwin Park Elementary PTA invites the entire community to come to the annual Spring Fest carnival and say aloha to Audubon Park Elementary, send best wishes to those students moving to the new K-8 school, and welcome all new and continuing students to the newly named Baldwin Park Elementary. Have fun at activities like a surf simulator, rock climbing wall, bounce houses, carnival games, and so much more! You won't go hungry with treats from the bake sale, cake walk, and the popcorn and cotton candy stand. Save room for dinner at one of the food trucks! Activity wrist bands are only \$5 for children and free to adults. For more information, visit <https://www.baldwinparkpta.org/events>

4.14 BEARD IN BALDWIN FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL will 6-10 p.m. Saturday, April 14, in the Village Center. Beard in Baldwin is a food and drink event like no other. Top-tier local restaurants and chefs participate in this ticketed affair, located outdoors along New Broad Street. Hosted by The Osprey Tavern, don't miss this one-of-a-kind event that benefits local cuisine and the James Beard Foundation's National Scholars Program. For tickets and more information, visit <https://www.beardinbaldwin.com/>



4.21 HARBOR HOUSE PAWS FOR PEACE WALK will be Saturday, April 21, in Blue Jacket Park. Registration will begin at 8 a.m., and the walk will start at 9 a.m. Peace, Love and Paws. Tails are wagging in anticipation of the 8th Annual Paws for Peace Walk – a fun and leisurely stroll for pets, their families and friends to raise awareness about domestic abuse and its effect on pets and their owners. The walk benefits the Paws for Peace Kennel at Harbor House of Central Florida. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.harborhousefl.com/give-help/get-involved/events/paws-for-peace-walk/>

Rhubarb Strawberry Crunch

Ingredients

- 1 cup white sugar
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 3 cups sliced fresh strawberries
- 3 cups diced rhubarb

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup rolled oats



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).
2. In a large bowl, mix white sugar, 3 tablespoons flour, strawberries, and rhubarb. Place the mixture in a 9x13 inch baking dish.
3. Mix 1 1/2 cups flour, brown sugar, butter, and oats until crumbly. You may want to use a pastry blender for this. Crumble on top of the rhubarb and strawberry mixture.
4. Bake 45 minutes in the preheated oven, or until crisp and lightly browned.

Recipe by: Michelle Davis