

# Four-Season Home Cleaning Checklist

One list for each season of a Canadian home. Pick a weekend per season and work through it, spreading the tasks if you need to.



## Spring: refresh after the long winter

After months of closed windows, dry heating air and winter grime, the whole home can use a reset.

- ☐ Open windows on mild days to air out the home and refresh the air.
- ☐ Vacuum and wash window screens, sills and tracks that collected dust all winter.
- ☐ Wash curtains, throw blankets and bedding that have gone months without a clean.
- ☐ Dust every surface from top to bottom, including ceilings, vents and light fixtures.
- ☐ Wipe down baseboards, doors and frames that picked up winter grime.
- ☐ Vacuum and clean carpets and rugs to lift the salt and grit of the season.
- ☐ Clear winter gear, boots and salt residue from the entryway and store it away.
- ☐ Give the fridge a reset: clear it out, wipe the shelves and check the seals.
- ☐ Check for the damage winter can hide: damp spots on walls, cracked caulking and corners where moisture has collected.

## Summer: humidity, allergens and outdoor drag-in

The summer list focuses on the dirt that comes in from outside and the moisture that builds up indoors.

- ☐ Keep entryways clear with good doormats and a place to leave shoes.
- ☐ Vacuum and dust more often near doors and windows where pollen settles.
- ☐ Run the exhaust fan or open windows after cooking and showering to control humidity.
- ☐ Clean the grill, patio furniture and outdoor cushions before they get too far gone.
- ☐ Wipe down fans and air-conditioning filters that pull in dust and allergens.
- ☐ Store winter bedding and heavy blankets after washing, and bring out lighter ones.
- ☐ Check window seals and screens for gaps that let insects in.

## Fall: prepare the home for shorter, cooler days

Fall cleaning is about closing the loop: dealing with summer build-up and preparing for winter.

- ☐ Clean the gutters and downspouts before leaves and snow put them to the test.
- ☐ Bring in and clean outdoor furniture, cushions and garden tools before they sit in snow.
- ☐ Wash windows and screens one last time before they stay closed for the season.
- ☐ Vacuum and clean carpets and rugs so they start the winter fresh.
- ☐ Check weather stripping around doors and windows and replace anything worn.
- ☐ Dust and vacuum heating vents before the furnace season begins.
- ☐ Store summer gear, fans and light bedding after washing.
- ☐ Do a final clean of the kitchen to prepare for holiday cooking and guests.

## Winter: salt, dry air and time indoors

Winter is the season when the home gets the most use and shows it the fastest.

- ☐ Vacuum and mop entryways often, and change doormats to catch salt and slush.
- ☐ Wipe down door handles, light switches and remotes more often during cold and flu season.
- ☐ Dust and vacuum more regularly to keep up with the dust dry heating air settles.
- ☐ Run a humidifier at a comfortable level to offset the dryness, and clean it regularly.
- ☐ Wipe condensation off windows and sills to keep damp from causing mould.
- ☐ Keep the kitchen and bathrooms aired out while they are used the most.
- ☐ Tackle small indoor projects, like organising closets, when it is too cold for outdoor work.

## Products and supplies

You do not need a cupboard full of specialised products, but a few well-chosen ones do most of the work.

- ☐ A HEPA-filtered vacuum for carpets, upholstery and the fine dust of heating season.
- ☐ Microfibre cloths that lift dust instead of pushing it around.
- ☐ A multi-surface cleaner for counters, sinks and fixtures.
- ☐ A glass cleaner that leaves windows and mirrors streak-free.
- ☐ A good entryway doormat for every season, plus a change of mats for winter.
- ☐ A step stool and an extendable duster so high surfaces actually get cleaned.

## A year-round plan

The easiest way to keep a seasonal routine is to attach it to the calendar.

- ☐ Step 1. Pick one weekend per season and block it off for the seasonal checklist.
- ☐ Step 2. Work through the season's list, spreading the tasks across weekends if you need to.
- ☐ Step 3. Handle any maintenance the season reveals, from damp spots to worn weather stripping.
- ☐ Step 4. Replace worn supplies, wash or store what the season has finished with, and stock the next one.
- ☐ Step 5. Review the plan once a year and adjust it to your home, your family and your routine.