

# The "Mother-of-All" Fall Cleaning Checklists

## Start Big and at the Top

- ❑ Tidy up the attic and check for any roof leaks.
- ❑ Clean ceiling light fixtures and chandeliers.
- ❑ Dust or vacuum ceiling fans.
- ❑ Clean window coverings, blinds and draperies. Be sure to check labels for special instructions.
- ❑ Clean behind and under the washer, dryer and other large appliances.
- ❑ Dust behind and under large pieces of furniture and other hard to reach places.
- ❑ Dust the computer, printer and electronic areas.
- ❑ Sweep out and vacuum the fireplace. Have the fireplace inspected by a professional.
- ❑ Remove all upholstery cushions and vacuum underneath. Rent a steam cleaner for a deep clean.
- ❑ Replace all air filters. You'll conserve energy if they are clean.
- ❑ Clean out the garage and hose down the floor. Pull down holiday decorations while you are at it.

## The Bedrooms

- ❑ Launder all pillows, bedding and mattress pads. Take a book to the laundromat so you can do everything at once and get it over with.
- ❑ Rotate/flip the mattresses.
- ❑ De-clutter closets and move in your fall/winter wardrobe. Store your warm weather clothing and donate old clothing.
- ❑ De-clutter and deep clean each room one at a time.

## The Kitchen and Pantry

- ❑ "Self clean" or manually clean the oven.
- ❑ Wipe down the cabinets inside and out. Replace any liners if needed.
- ❑ Discard expired food from the refrigerator and freezer.
- ❑ Check your spices for expiration.
- ❑ Wipe down all refrigerator shelves.
- ❑ Replace baking soda in the back of the refrigerator.
- ❑ Dust and vacuum the refrigerator coil.
- ❑ Clean the drip pan under the refrigerator.
- ❑ Clean out the pantry and discard expired food.
- ❑ Wipe down the pantry shelves. Check for low staple foods.
- ❑ Clean and disinfect the kitchen trashcan and recycle bins.
- ❑ Run cut lemons and ice through the garbage disposal. This will sharpen the blades and freshen it.
- ❑ Clean and polish any marble or stone countertops.
- ❑ Polish all silver to get ready for the holidays.

## The Bathrooms

- ❑ Clean bathmats.
- ❑ Restock toilet paper, hand towels and soap.
- ❑ Clean and disinfect all trashcans.
- ❑ Clean or replace toothbrushes. Soaking these in hydrogen peroxide is quick and easy!
- ❑ Clean and disinfect toothbrush holders and soap holders.
- ❑ Polish and clean fixtures.
- ❑ Clean and polish any marble or stone countertops.

## Finishing Up the Inside

- ❑ Dust/vacuum all window sills and baseboards.
- ❑ Dust bookshelves and display cases.
- ❑ Clean the carpets and rugs.
- ❑ Wash interior windows.

## Outside the House

- ❑ Pressure wash the house. Find any problem areas that need paint or touch up.
- ❑ Check the caulking and weather seals around doors and windows. You'll thank yourself when you get your first heating bill.
- ❑ Wash outside windows. This is best done on a cloudy day so they won't dry too fast plus you can see streaks easier.
- ❑ Check the dryer exhaust pipe. Make sure the exterior door closes to conserve heat. A clogged exhaust pipe is a fire hazard!
- ❑ Check and clean the gutters and downspouts.
- ❑ Clean outdoor furniture. Cover or store them along with summer toys.
- ❑ Clean the bbq grill. Fill up the gas tank if you plan to use it for cooking anytime soon.
- ❑ Clean off outdoor light fixtures. Check for bulbs that need replacing.
- ❑ Drain and store water hoses.
- ❑ Drain water heater to remove sediment.
- ❑ Schedule a furnace inspection.
- ❑ Vacuum the inside of your car, change the windshield wipers and add wiper fluid.

## Important Extras

- ❑ Stock up on air filters.
- ❑ Stock up on extra batteries and light bulbs.
- ❑ Check the batteries in all flashlights. Make sure you have candles and matches in case of a power outage.
- ❑ Stock up on deicing salt and softener salt.
- ❑ Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- ❑ Update your family emergency kit.