



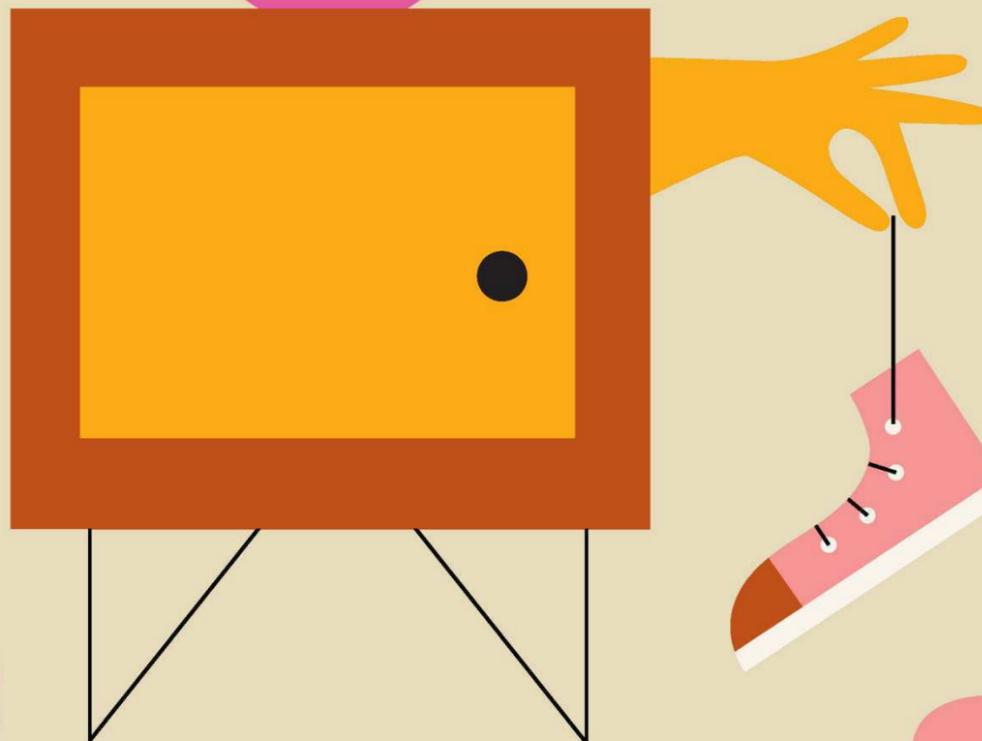
the

clean -

Get your home  
ready for guests with  
these easy-to-follow  
checklists—whether  
you've got plenty of time  
to prep or their ETA  
is minutes away!

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ILLUSTRATIONS  
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# enough house

Housekeeping is about meeting standards, but sometimes when guests are coming and you're in a hurry, those standards go out the window. If you've got all the time in the world—and we're not jealous at *all*—we have the prescription for a thorough tidying-up. Need to hustle?

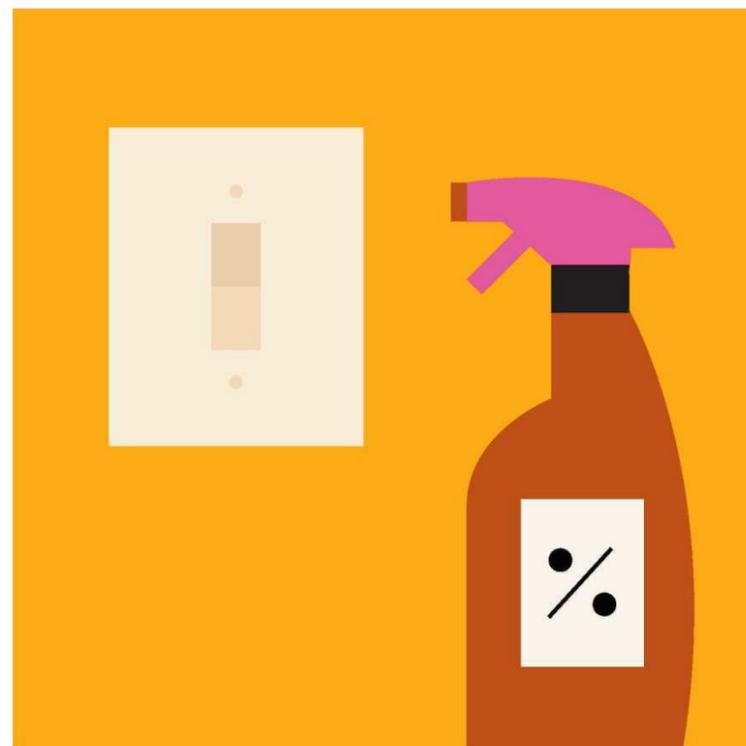
Got you covered there too, with the bare-minimum must-dos. Follow our room-by-room plan to make the place look good and feel good to you, your family, and whoever is stopping by.



# entryway



Always work from the top of the room to the bottom so you're not dealing with dirt and debris landing on your freshly cleaned surfaces.



## FAST & FURIOUS

- ✓ Put away rogue shoes and extra coats.
- ✓ Wipe down the baseboards with a microfiber cloth. (Baseboards are more noticeable in an entryway because there's less furniture for them to hide behind!) If they're extra gunky, try Mr. Clean Magic Eraser Sheets.
- ✓ Sort through the mail and recycle any junk.
- ✓ Shake out the doormat outdoors.
- ✓ Sweep and mop the area.

## SQUEAKY-CLEAN SUPPLIES



Shoe Cleaning Hedgehog, \$80; flotsamandfork.com.  
Biom Sanitizing Wipes, \$55 for starter set; getbiom.co.  
Mr. Clean Magic Eraser Cleaning Sheets, \$3; target.com.

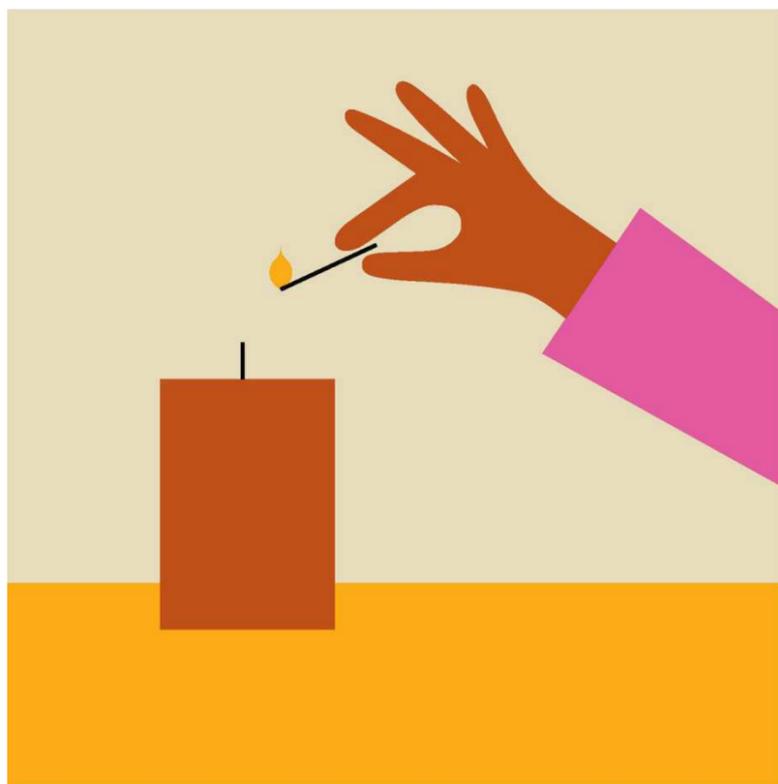
## A DEEPER CLEAN

- Sanitize the doorknobs and light switches with disinfecting wipes or spray.
- Wipe mirrors with glass cleaner and a flat-weave microfiber cloth.
- Dust all surfaces and clean the light fixtures using a duster with an extendable handle.

Because dirt quickly accumulates in the entryway, place a boot brush outside your door to cut back on crud getting tracked in. And don't be sheepish about your no-shoe rule. It's standard, and safer.



# living room



If it always looks like a cyclone of toys and pet gear whipped through here, consider investing in furniture that doubles as storage, like a coffee table or ottoman with built-in compartments.

## FAST & FURIOUS

- ✓ Run a lint roller over the sofa and fluff the pillows. A fabric shaver can rid your couch of fuzz balls from throw blankets.
- ✓ Wipe pet hair off surfaces with damp rubber gloves. They're seriously like magnets.
- ✓ Clear off the coffee table. All abandoned water glasses must go!
- ✓ Light a candle or spray air freshener to mask any odors.

Help keep pet hair from clinging to your drapes and couch by spritzing them with antistatic spray.

## A DEEPER CLEAN

- Pass tech wipes over your electronics. (These are generally drier than regular wipes.)
- Clean under the sofa cushions. A hand vacuum is, well, handy here. Use the long crevice attachment, then the brush attachment, to help pull up embedded crumbs.
- Wipe down the wooden frames of your furniture with a microfiber cloth, especially if they have carvings with crannies that trap dust.
  - This might seem extra, but cleaning the leaves of broad-leaf plants, like monstera, can keep them healthier. Quickly rinse them in the sink or shower, or gently wipe each leaf with a damp rag if the plant is too heavy to move.

## SQUEAKY-CLEAN SUPPLIES



Black+Decker Dustbuster Cordless Handheld Vacuum, \$49; amazon.com. Windex Electronics Wipes, \$6.50 for 25; staples.com. Steamery Pilo 2 Fabric Shaver, \$60; ssense.com.

# kitchen



## FAST & FURIOUS

- ☑ **Put away clean dishes** from the dishwasher and drying rack, and transfer any dirty dishes from the sink to the dishwasher.
- ☑ **Clean counters** with all-purpose spray, and wipe cabinet fronts with a microfiber cloth and warm water.
- ☑ **Suction up crumbs** from the stove with a handheld vacuum, then wipe the surface with a microfiber cloth. (For dried-on gunk, rest a damp microfiber cloth on top for a few minutes to soften it.)
- ☑ **Take out the trash.** If the can smells funky, line it with newspaper, then generously sprinkle baking soda over the paper. Discard once the odor is gone.

Staying on top of smaller messes—wiping up coffee spills as they happen and sweeping errant cereal daily—helps keep the mess under control.

## A DEEPER CLEAN

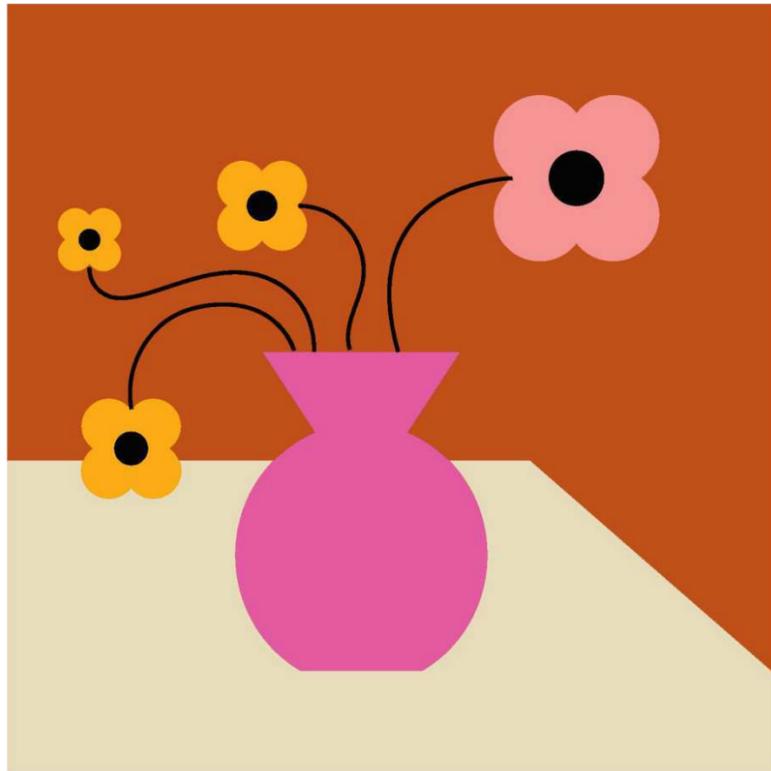
- **Toss old food** from the fridge and wash the shelves and drawers with glass cleaner and a microfiber cloth.
- **Clean appliance exteriors.** Wipe stainless steel in the direction of the grain to prevent dullness.
- **Give the inside of the microwave a good clean** (it likely really needs it). Microwave a cup of white vinegar for three to five minutes to loosen caked-on messes. Then follow up with a clean sponge. If the vinegar tends to boil over, a product like the Angry Mama Microwave Cleaner will create steam without the watery mess.
  - **Toss citrus peels** into the garbage disposal to defunk it, and scrub down the sink with Bar Keepers Friend.
  - **Throw your sink stopper** onto the dishwasher's top rack to get the gunk out, and hand-wash the dish rack.
  - **When the dishwasher is empty, run a cycle** with just a cup of vinegar on the top rack to deodorize it.

## SQUEAKY-CLEAN SUPPLIES



Angry Mama Microwave Cleaner, \$12.50; amazon.com.  
Stainless Steel Cleaner & Polish Spray, \$7.50; weiman.com.  
Bar Keepers Friend Soft Cleanser, \$3.50; homedepot.com.

# dining room



## FAST & FURIOUS

- ✔ Clean the table with a formula appropriate for its material (like wood or glass).
- ✔ Replace any table linens, if you use them.
- ✔ Straighten up the hutch or sideboard, and put away anything you won't be using that day.
- ✔ Add a vase of fresh flowers as a centerpiece for bonus points!

Dust your blinds—you wouldn't believe how much grime gathers there. To quickly tackle them, stick your hand into an old sock dipped in cleaning solution, then pass over the slats.

## A DEEPER CLEAN

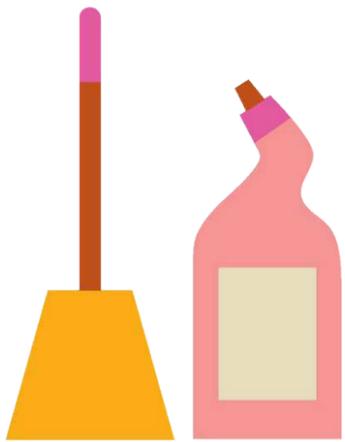
- **Wipe down the chairs**, including the legs, with a lightly damp microfiber cloth. (This works for both wood and upholstery.)
  - **Vacuum the rug** (we see you, hair nests!), and use your vacuum's brush attachment on upholstered chairs.
  - **Apply wood polish** (follow the manufacturer's instructions) to your dining table and sideboard if appropriate.
- **Clean and dust the light fixtures** using an extendable dusting wand with a microfiber head.

Hot tip (literally): Don't toss your tablecloth into the dryer if you still see stains after washing. The heat could set the splotch! Try gently scrubbing the stain again with detergent or pretreatment while it's still wet, then rewash.

## SQUEAKY-CLEAN SUPPLIES



Extendable Microfiber Duster, \$18; [oxo.com](http://oxo.com).  
Method Wood Polish and Shine Spray, \$6; [target.com](http://target.com).  
Clean Sweep Broom, \$35; [fullcirclehome.com](http://fullcirclehome.com).

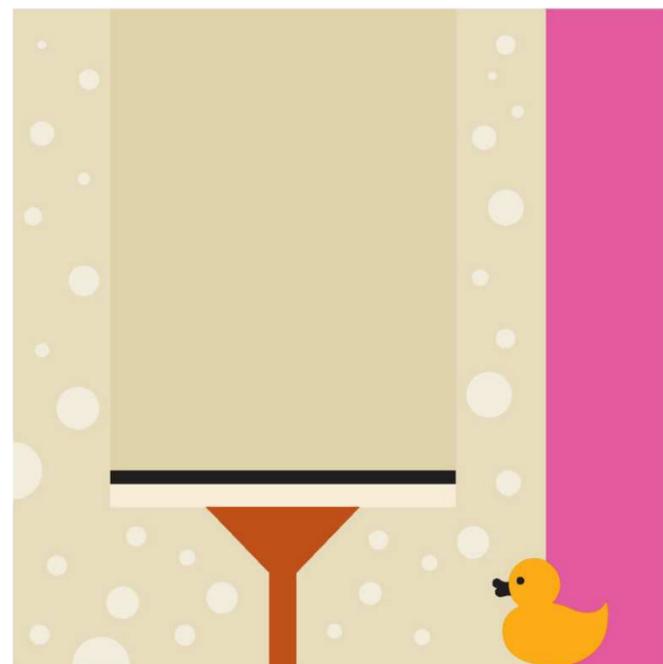


# bathroom

Spraying your shower every evening with a cleaner inhibits scum and mildew growth, so you don't have to try to scrub off weeks of buildup.

## FAST & FURIOUS

- ✔ **Squeeze toilet cleaner** into the toilet bowl. Wipe the flush handle and then the seat with a disinfecting wipe. Finally, scrub the toilet's interior with a brush.
- ✔ **Pass a fresh wipe over the sink**, then use it in the basin and other icky exterior parts.
- ✔ **Spray glass cleaner** onto a flat-weave microfiber cloth and wipe mirrors. If you have hardened schmutz, like toothpaste, get rid of that first. Press a cotton ball soaked in rubbing alcohol on it to soften for easier removal.
- ✔ **Use your hand vac** to suck up clumps of hair and dust bunnies.
- ✔ **Replace bath and hand towels.**



## A DEEPER CLEAN

- **Throw the bath mat into the wash** and air-dry.
- **Clean grout** with a hydrogen peroxide spray and scrub with a toothbrush.
- **Remove buildup** from the showerhead by pouring white vinegar into a gallon-size zip-top bag. Fully submerge the nozzle, and secure it tightly with a rubber band for an overnight soak. (If the fixture is nickel, brass, or gold, soak it for only 30 minutes.)
- **Squeegee the shower door** or clean the curtains and liner. You can usually toss these into the wash—no dryer. Otherwise, spray with mildew stain remover (or replace the liner if necessary). To avoid straining your back and knees, use a broom to scrub your preferred cleaning solution into the walls and tub bottom.
- **Clean your toothbrushes** by dunking them in 3 percent hydrogen peroxide for 15 minutes. Run the toothbrush holder through the top rack of the dishwasher.

## SQUEAKY-CLEAN SUPPLIES



Windex with Vinegar Glass Cleaner, \$4; homedepot.com.  
Soap Dispensing Dish Brush, \$12; oxo.com.  
Method Daily Shower Spray, \$4; target.com.