

The Daily Union  
Saturday, March 30, 2019  
Title: Spring Cleaning Time

The month of April is knocking at our door with the promise of more sunshine and warmer weather. When you open your home's door, will it be ready for spring? In other words – have you tackled your spring cleaning list?

What may be a normal seasonal routine for some of you may be a foreign concept for others. Napoleon Hill once said, "Plan your work and work your plan" which applies to this seasonal task. Whether spring cleaning is an established habit or a new routine to adopt, you should start with a plan.

Start with taking inventory of the cleaning products and supplies you already have on hand. Create a shopping list to purchase whatever is missing. Complete this first step by creating a list of what you want to clean and prioritize your efforts by the task or by the room.

The next step is to break down each part of spring cleaning by piece and parcel:

**Window Treatments:** This is best done room by room, at most. If you try to take down all the curtains and/or blinds in your home to clean on a single day, you will likely start to lag in your effort by the end of the day and perhaps find that the last pieces may not be cleaned as thoroughly as those you began with. You need to decide how you will clean window treatments before you get started. You might want to take them to the cleaners to get freshened up. If cost or availability for using a cleaner is an obstacle, then look for a care label to see if you can hand or machine wash them at home. If neither of those options work, use a vacuum and fabric refresher to give them a spring cleaning boost.

**Walls:** Using a soft brush vacuum attachment and hose is an ideal approach to removing any cob webs from corners or the flat surfaces of walls. Using a broom or dust mop is another option, but you risk adding dirt streaks to walls at the same time – which would require another step in your cleaning.

**Ceiling Fans:** If you use your ceiling fans throughout the year to move air in your home, you might find this task to be more challenging than other cleaning tasks. The edges of the fan blades can be hard to reach and the dust bunnies are often thick on the upper side where you can't see. Remember – safety first. Make sure you have a sturdy step stool and your cleaning equipment close at hand. Keeping your feet as close to the floor as possible without overreaching to the fan, wipe or vacuum the blades first. This will remove the loose dust. Follow that up by using a cloth sprayed with cleaning solution to remove any residual dust and dirt. Don't spray the blades directly as that may cause the cleaning agent to get on your ceiling and leave a stain.

**Upholstered Furniture:** There is a wide variety of fragrant products available for freshening up the upholstery on your furniture. However, before you take that step you should first vacuum the cushions (all sides), the armrests, and the back of the furniture piece. This will lift any dust or dirt particles off the surface before you dampen them with a fragrant spray.

**Floors:** How you clean your floors is entirely dependent upon the type of material with which your floor is composed of or covered. Regardless of the floor covering, you should always read and follow label directions on the cleaning products you have chosen to use. The label will indicate what type of surface it is formulated to clean as well as warn you about any floor coverings you should not clean with the product. Additionally, the directions on the label will tell you how much to use and how to use the product for the best results. Follow the use and care guidelines provided with the floor covering product you have installed. If you don't have those guidelines, contact the company that produced the product or check with the person who installed it. Finally, if those options are not available, look for the suggestions offered on the American Cleaning Institute's (ACI) website at: <https://www.cleaninginstitute.org/cleaning-tips/clean-surfaces>.

*\*\*For more cleaning tips, see the insert about being safe with your cleaning tasks provided by ACI.*

The information for this article was adapted from information from the American Cleaning Institute. Check out their website at [www.cleaninginstitute.org](http://www.cleaninginstitute.org) for more information or contact the Geary County K-State Research and Extension Office at 785-238-4161. Until next time, keep living resourcefully!

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<b>Safety First Do's and Don'ts</b>	
<b>Do</b>	<b>Don't</b>
Read and follow label directions for proper use, storage and disposal. Store cleaning products in an area which is away from food and not accessible to young children or pets.	Mix cleaning products. Products which are safe when used alone can sometimes cause dangerous fumes if mixed with other products. Reuse an empty household cleaning product container for any other purpose. The label instructions and precautions for the original product may be inaccurate or dangerous if used for a different product.
Store products in their original containers and keep the original label intact. Product use and storage, disposal instructions, precautions and first aid instructions vary according to their ingredients. It can be dangerous to use a product incorrectly or to follow the wrong emergency procedures.	Leave buckets containing cleaning solutions within reach of young children.
Put cleaning products away immediately after removing the amount needed for the job. This will limit accessibility to young children and help prevent accidental spills.	Store cleaning products in lower or unlocked cabinets where children can get to them.