



With spring on its way, it's time to scrub away the winter blues. Refresh your home with a dose of spring cleaning as an excellent way to prepare for the warmer months.

If you're wondering where to start, Patten Title has created a master list of ways to declutter. Take 15-30 minutes on each task beginning in March, and you'll be ready to welcome April.

## DUST YOUR BLINDS

Blinds are an often-neglected area that could benefit from the occasional dusting.

## VACUUM UNDER FURNITURE

Furniture such as couches and beds can be heavy and difficult to move during weekly vacuuming, but they still accumulate dirt and dust. Invest in furniture moving discs to access those hard-to-reach places.

## PACK AWAY WINTER CLOTHES

Before you hit the beach, swap out your cold-weather clothes and clear space in your closet for your bathing suit and sun dresses.

## RE-ORGANIZE YOUR PANTRY

A clean and organized pantry makes finding ingredients a breeze. Spring cleaning is a good opportunity to empty and dust out your cabinets, restoring some order to your kitchen.

## MOP AROUND APPLIANCES

Just like your furniture, many appliances are heavy and difficult to move. However, they still accumulate enough dirt and dust to require a good scrubbing.

## TACKLE HOME IMPROVEMENTS

With warm weather coming, now is the time to call professionals for estimates on any outdoor home improvements you might consider implementing.

## WIPE DOWN WALLS

It's easy to forget that your walls can get dirty over time, but cleaning them is as simple as wiping them down with water and dish detergent.

## ORGANIZE YOUR STORAGE

Purchasing and labeling bins is a surefire way to make sure that you can find all of the winter clothes, gear, and decorations you want to store away for later in the year.

## FILE AWAY DOCUMENTS

Take the time to shred any old mail that you no longer need, and file the documents that are still important in a safe place. If you have filed your taxes already, this is great time to stow away your paperwork.

## WIPE WINDOWS INSIDE AND OUT

Pella Windows recommends a home recipe to make your windows sparkle.

## REFRESH PATIO FURNITURE

Get ready for your Texas barbecue with a spruce of your patio furniture. Check your manufacturer's instructions for cleaning cushions and other surfaces. If you have any old decor or furniture from last year, use this time to clean, restore, or get rid of them.

## CLEAN SIDING

Vinyl siding is one of the most common types of home siding and may need to be cleaned occasionally. CertainTeed, a manufacturer of vinyl siding, recommends working dirty areas with a bristle brush and garden hose.

## CHANGE BEDDING

Washing and changing your bedding may be on your list of weekly chores, but if the summer heat keeps you awake at night, you might want to consider investing in a new bedding set to cope with the weather change.

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## CALL FOR POOL MAINTENANCE

Pool owners can remove the winter cover and give the inside of the pool its first [cleaning of the year](#). Schedule a service with your local agency if you find cracks or tears in your siding.

## SCRUB SHOWERS AND BATHTUBS

You can use a [retired toothbrush and a baking soda concoction](#) to clean the grout in your showers and bathtubs.

## DEEP-CLEAN APPLIANCES

[Give your oven a makeover](#), and make sure you vacuum the coils in your refrigerator.

## STEAM CLEAN CARPETS

If you don't own a steam cleaner, search for a local business that rents them by the hour or day.

## SORT YOUR GARAGE

Enjoy the spring weather by making a day to open up the garage and get rid of any clutter. This is also prime time to host a garage sale to get rid of unwanted clutter.

## ORGANIZE CHILDREN'S TOYS

Plan through old toys with your children and organize their rooms. If there are any items that they no longer play with, consider donating them to a [toy drive](#).

## CLEAN OUT THE CLOSET

In addition to packing away winter clothes, take the time to sort and donate old clothes and shoes that you no longer wear. [Make a list of what you donate](#) to reduce your taxes next year.

## EMPTY YOUR "JUNK DRAWER"

[Organize](#) that one drawer in your home that contains all the odd bits and bobbles, then discard outdated takeout menus or anything you will likely never use again.

## DON'T NEGLECT TRIM OR BASEBOARDS

[Baseboards and trim](#) can accumulate a surprising amount of dust. This is the perfect chore to involve younger members of the family.

## REVAMP YOUR LIVING ROOM

Once your home is thoroughly cleaned, you can enjoy the space even more by [rearranging furniture](#) to let in light or with new seasonal pieces.

## DESCALE THE COFFEE POT

Coffee pots can build up minerals over time and need to be cleaned occasionally. A simple descaler is to run a [vinegar solution](#) through your coffee maker, and there are [special cleaning solutions](#) available for pots that take single-use cups.

## SHAKE OUT DOORMATS

Heavily-used doormats can build up dirt that you don't want tracked into your home. You can [vacuum](#) hard-to-see particles or wash each mat with your garden hose. While you're out there, give your porch a good sweep too.

## EMPTY THE FRIDGE

Take the time to clean your fridge shelf by shelf and [wipe down](#) all surfaces and drawers. Check expiry dates and throw out old items.

## TEST SMOKE ALARMS

The [Texas Department of Insurance](#) recommends testing your smoke alarms at least once a month.

## DUST BOOKSHELVES

Check your local library or area [Little Free Libraries](#) to donate books you will no longer need.

## PLANT A GARDEN

Digging in the dirt might seem counterintuitive to cleaning, but [planting a garden](#) spruces your landscaping, increases your curb appeal, and provides fresh and healthy produce all summer long.

## DUST CEILING FANS

Dirt can accumulate on fan blades and affect people with allergies. You can use an old [pillowcase](#) to remove dust easily.

## SCRUB TRASH CANS

The warm weather is a good opportunity to take often-used [trash cans](#) outdoors and spray them with a garden hose.



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