

The Clean Resource

Spring Cleaning in October?

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It's Fall...Time for Spring Cleaning!

Yes, fall is the best time for the deep cleaning jobs traditionally left for the spring. Spring cleaning originated in the times when houses were closed up for the winter and coal and wood burning stoves were used for warmth. Now that homes are heated differently, we need to clean differently. Clean your home in the fall instead of the spring and it will stay cleaner, longer!

Use this checklist to help get your home clean for the winter months.

Inside:

●**Vacuum drapes and window treatments.** A good vacuuming gets all the dust and dirt you can't see.

●**Clean the blinds.**

If you've had your windows open during the summer, dust and dirt has probably settled on the louvers. Dust blinds now with a dry Microfiber cloth before

the dust has a chance to harden and become cemented on. If the dust is already hardened, just dampen the cloth.

●**Wash or dry sponge the walls.** If your walls can be cleaned with water, use a water-dampened Microfiber cloth or a little bit of Heavy Duty Cleaner to remove grime and dust. If your walls aren't water-tolerant, use a rubber dry sponge. These work like an eraser to remove dirt and soot from wallpaper, walls and even ceiling tiles!

●**Launder blankets and other bedding.** Before you make the beds, make sure all of your bed linens are clean. You'll also want to flip your mattresses front-to-back and end-to-end to equalize wear.

●**Clean light fixtures.**

Vacuuming and/or washing the dirt, dust and bugs from your fixtures will not only look better, but it will keep the light glowing throughout the winter.

●**Clean the windows, inside and out.** Removing sprinkler overspray, fingerprints, dust and bird droppings from your windows will make them sparkle and will make your home brighter through the coming months.

●**Change the filters in your heater.** The air in your home can be up to 5 times as dirty as outdoor air. Change your filters every 3 months to keep the air cleaner and reduce energy costs.

●**Vacuum baseboards. Clean the carpets.** Remember to vacuum thoroughly and spot treat the carpets before you clean

Remember to clean your home from the top to the bottom. That way, any dust or dirt you miss will fall to the floor and can be vacuumed up.

October

- Carpet Spotters now on sale!
- Fix scratches in wood with the new Almond Stick!
- See the video on cleaning your bathroom in 3-1/2 Minutes on our website!

The Newest in Cleaning - Steamers

We all want to live in a clean home with fewer dust mites, germs and allergens and many of us want to be able to reduce the amount of chemical cleaners we use to achieve this. What if we could clean and disinfect our homes using just water? It may sound too good to be true, but research has shown that a good steam cleaner can do just that. And since there are no brooms, mops, buckets or dirty water to deal with, steam cleaning is almost mess free!

Steam cleaners have been proven to drastically reduce microbes on our floors, counters, carpets, tile grout, mattresses and more. The hot steam penetrates porous material easily to kill dust mites, germs and mold and to remove allergens. This makes these machines great for asthma and allergy sufferers! You can loosen baked-on, ground-in dirt from floors without using chemicals, so steam cleaners are also eco-friendly.

Another great feature of steam cleaners is the short dry time for surfaces cleaned this way. Since less than a gallon of water is used for each hour of continuous steam time, very little moisture is left on the surface just cleaned. This

helps to prevent slips and falls and prevents mold spores from growing on carpeting and upholstery.



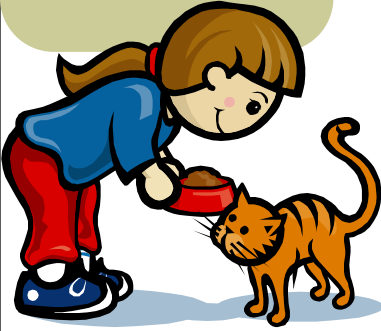
NEW! Everywhere Steamer \$99.95

Steam cleaning can also make your vacuum more effective. The steam will help to loosen dirt particles from the carpet fibers and cause them to rise to the surface where they can be picked up by your vacuum. And the vacuum will be able to penetrate more deeply because the carpet fibers have been loosened.

Though steam cleaners are great for many household jobs, there are a few things that need to be considered when deciding to buy one of these tools:

- Steam cleaners are not vacuums. Dirt and grime that has been loosened may need to be wiped up after steaming.
- Hot-water extraction is still better than steam cleaning for removing stains and ground-in dirt from carpeting.
- Though steam cleaners clean more deeply than a broom, sponge or mop, they aren't any faster. The tool may need to be moved slowly over heavily soiled surfaces.

*Check out our
new Everywhere
Steam Cleaner
at the Cleaning
Center!*



Pet Clean Up

Americans really love pets. According to the 2007-2008 National Pet Owners Survey, there are more than 163 million dogs and cats owned in the United States. That doesn't even take into account all the rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs, hamsters, and more out there! And all of these animals can make messes that we, as pet owners, can spend hours cleaning up. Sticky paw prints, food slops, mud and streaks may appear stubborn and impossible to remove, but with these four basic steps, you can remove most pet messes from most surfaces quickly and easily:

1. Remove: Before cleaning or washing any surface, remember to remove the bulk of the dirt or accident. Scrape, brush or knock it off. If the mess has dried into a thick, hard crust, remove what you can with a razor blade or putty knife. The more of the deposit you

can remove this way, the easier the next steps will be.

2. Spray or dampen: the article liberally with the cleaning solution you're using. All-purpose cleaner should work great for most pet cleaning, but certain spots (like grease, oil, or tar) call for different solvents or spot removers. Make sure to use the right spotter for the right type of spot.

3. Let it soak: Let the cleaning solution sit for 2-5 minutes (depending on the spot) to give it time to work. Waterproof items, like rubber bones, food dishes, etc. can be soaked in cleaning solution overnight. Don't allow the solution to sit on unfinished wood floors or other liquid-sensitive materials.

Wipe or rinse: Once the spot or stain has been softened, you should be able to wipe or rinse it away. This last step is also helpful because it removes any chemical residue that could be harmful to you or your pets. Launder clothing after spot cleaning.

Cleaning pet accidents from soft surfaces uses the same four steps outlined above, but the cleaning solutions are different. After scraping up any solid matter and blotting as much liquid from the surface as you can, apply a bacteria/enzyme digester (like our 3-Way Spotter) to the area. Make sure to follow label directions for dilution and application completely. Cover the area with plastic or a dampened towel to keep the spot wet while the enzymes go to work (usually for 24 hours.) After the enzymes have done their job, rinse the area thoroughly. When done properly, this should remove the stain and odor from pet accidents in carpeting, upholstery and more.

For more information, read Don Aslett's *Pet Clean up Made Easy*, which can be purchased in store or by mail order.



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**Don Aslett's
CLEANING
CENTER**

You may have heard of the term VOC, and even wondered what it meant. Or, maybe you have not heard of it yet, but with the environment and our health getting more attention, it is something that you will hear more and more of.

VOC is an acronym for Volatile Organic Compounds. These are the emitted gases that come from many ordinary products we use everyday, including cleaning supplies. Whether levels are minor or significant, VOC gasses can harm the air quality, the environment and your health. Some have said that except for cutting the amount we drive, using low or non V.O.C. cleaning

products will reduce the most in emissions.

While many products emit VOCs, including paint, pesticides and even office products, many cleaners are the leading culprit. But not all cleaners are guilty of polluting the air. And there are



duced the Everywhere Steamer. As it is described in its name, it uses only steam to

What are V.O.C. Gasses?

many steps we can all take to reduce the amount of VOCs released in the atmosphere.

The first step in avoiding effects of VOCs is to cut the use of them. Check the label of many of the products you use everyday. When shopping for cleaning supplies, find products with a lower level of VOC emissions. Don Aslett's Max Clean is an excellent option in cleaning that is safe on the air and the environment in general. The Cleaning Center also has many other products low in VOC emissions for many cleaning needs.

You can also cut back on VOC gasses by using other cleaning options in your home. The Cleaning Center has intro-

duced the Everywhere Steamer. As it is described in its name, it uses only steam to clean many surfaces of your home, including floors, walls, cabinets and more. And because you are only using water, you are not releasing VOCs to contaminate your home and the quality of the air. Also, Microfiber is a great choice in cleaning safely. Again, when you use Microfiber, many times you can use less if any cleaners to clean throughout your home.

Lastly, the less you need to deep clean, the less you use cleaners with VOCs. Mats keeps dirt at the door, and the less you need to clean. And keeping up with little maintenance cleaning will not only save you time in the long run, you will need less chemicals to keep your home clean, and your air cleaner!

