Spring cleaning

Now’s the time to do some spring cleaning. ANNA HOCHSIEDER has tips on how to make your home look spick and span.

1. broom (broom) 2. step ladder (step ladder) 3. rubber gloves (rubber glove) 4. dustpan and brush (dustpan and brush) 5. cleaning product (cleaning product) 6. bin liner (bin liner) 7. rubbish bin (rubbish bin) 8. floor cloth (floor cloth) 9. squeegee (squeegee) 10. vacuum cleaner (vacuum cleaner) 11. cleaning foam (cleaning foam) 12. disinfectant (disinfectant) 13. feather duster (feather duster) 14. duster (duster) 15. sponge (sponge) 16. floor brush (floor brush) 17. window cleaner (window cleaner) 18. glass cleaner (glass cleaner) 19. oven cleaner (oven cleaner) 20. metal polish (metal polish) 21. rubber gloves (rubber gloves)

Exercise 1
Cross out one item in each group of words that you would not use for the activity on the left.

A. sweeping: 1. broom | 2. brush | 3. dustpan
B. window-cleaning: 4. squeegee | 5. vacuum cleaner
C. mopping: 6. bin liner | 7. bucket | 8. rubber gloves
D. cleaning the bathroom: 9. cleaning foam | 10. disinfectant | 11. furniture polish | 12. toilet brush

Exercise 2
Match each verb on the left to the appropriate noun on the right.

A. do | B. sweep | C. dust | D. defrost | E. shake out

Exercise 3
Complete the definitions below with verbs from the opposite page.

A. If you ____________ a surface, you rub it with a soft cloth to make it shiny.
B. If you ____________ something, such as a toilet, you rub it hard, usually with a stiff brush, soap and water.
C. If you ____________ or ____________ something, such as a carpet, you clean it with an electrical machine that sucks up dust and dirt.
D. If you ____________ a surface, you clean it completely with a wet cloth.
E. If you ____________, you wash it quickly with clean water to remove soap, etc.

Exercise 4
Spick and span

Here are some more expressions that are often used in the context of cleaning.

If you’ve cleaned your house or flat thoroughly, it should be spottless or spotlessly clean. You can also say that it’s shipshape, clean and tidy or shipshape.

If you’re house-proud, you spend a lot of time keeping your home clean and tidy.

If you can afford it, maybe you have a cleaner or cleaning lady who comes in once or twice a week. She (or he) might also be called a housekeeper or a home help.

VOCABULARY

How to do the spring cleaning

Spring-clean your home by following this step-by-step guide.
• Wash the curtains or take them to the cleaner’s. Wash the bedding and hoover the mattresses.
• Dust the ceilings and walls with a feather duster.
• Take any small rugs outside and shake out the dust. Vacuum and shampoo the carpets and any upholstered furniture.
• Clean windows and mirrors.
• Dust and polish wooden surfaces with furniture polish and a cloth.

Defrost your refrigerator and freezer after removing the contents.
Wipe kitchen surfaces with disinfectant. Thoroughly clean all your kitchen appliances — inside and out.
Wipe down bathroom tiles with a suitable cleaning product.
Spray the bathtub, shower and sink with foam cleaner and let them soak before rinsing.
Thoroughly scrub toilets.
Sweep and mop floors. Don’t forget to wear rubber gloves to protect your skin.

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Complete the following sentences (A–E) with words from the opposite page.

A. These curtains aren’t washable. We’ll have to take them to the ____________.
B. Could you defrost the freezer, darling? But don’t forget to ____________ the contents first.
C. When you’ve finished with the floors, you can leave the floorcloth in the bucket to ____________ twice a year.
D. I gave the house a quick clean once a week, and I clean it ____________.
E. Why did you wipe the ____________ off the table? I had a phone number written in it.

Answers

A. dry-cleaning / laundry
B. defrost
C. soak
D. rub / scrub
E. squeegee