



1. broom [bru:m]
2. stepladder ['steplədə]
3. rubber gloves [ˌrʌbə 'glʌvz]
4. dustpan and brush [ˌdʌstpæn ənd 'brʌʃ]
5. cleaning product ['kli:nɪŋ ,prɒdʌkt]
6. bin liner ['bɪn ,laɪnə] UK, garbage bag ['gɑ:brɪdʒ bæɡ] N. Am.
7. rubbish bin ['rʌbɪʃ bɪn] UK, trash can ['træʃ kæn] N. Am., garbage can ['gɑ:brɪdʒ kæn] N. Am.
8. mop [mɒp]
9. bucket [bʌkɪt]
10. floorcloth ['flɔ:kloθ] UK
11. squeegee ['skwi:dʒi:]
12. vacuum cleaner ['vækjuəm ,kli:nə], Hoover ['hu:və] UK
13. sponge [spʌndʒ]
14. duster ['dʌstə], cloth [kloθ]
15. feather duster ['feðə ,dʌstə]

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VOCABULARY

# 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.

MEDIUM PLUS

**How to do the spring cleaning**

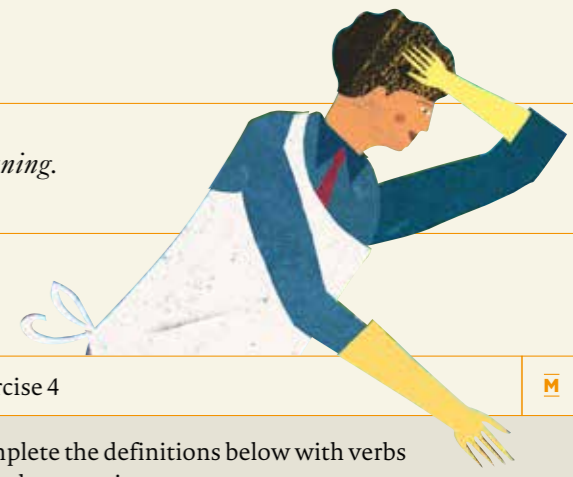
**Spring-clean** your home by following this step-by-step guide.

- **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.

Illustration: Marlin Haake

**PRACTICE**

Now try the following exercises to practise talking about spring cleaning.



Exercise 1 E

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

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| A. sweeping:              | <b>broom</b>   brush   duster   dustpan                        |
| B. window-cleaning:       | bucket   cleaning product   squeegee   vacuum cleaner          |
| C. mopping:               | bin liner   bucket   floorcloth   rubber gloves                |
| D. cleaning the bathroom: | cleaning foam   disinfectant   furniture polish   toilet brush |

Exercise 2 E

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

- |              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| A. do        | 1. the bookshelves  |
| B. sweep     | 2. the refrigerator |
| C. dust      | 3. the rugs         |
| D. defrost   | 4. the floor        |
| E. shake out | 5. rubber gloves    |
| F. wear      | 6. the cleaning     |

Exercise 3 M

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 .....
- D. I give the house a quick clean once a week, and I clean it ..... twice a year.
- E. Why did you wipe the ..... off the table? I had a phone number written in it.

Exercise 4 M

Complete the definitions below with verbs from the opposite page.

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

**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 **spotless** or **spotlessly clean**. You can also say that it's **spick and span**, **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**.

**item** ['aɪtəm]  
• Gegenstand, Artikel

**thoroughly** ['θɔ:ərəli]  
• gründlich, sorgfältig



- Answers**
1. A. duster  
B. vacuum cleaner  
C. bin liner  
D. furniture polish
  2. A-6; B-4; C-1; D-2; E-3; F-5
  3. A. cleaner's  
B. remove  
C. soak  
D. thoroughly  
E. dust
  4. A. polish  
B. scrub  
C. vacuum / hoover  
D. wipe down  
E. rinse