

april home checklist

scrub trashcans & recycling bins 

Your trashcans get grimy the longer you use them, and this accumulation of gunk, dried liquids, and old food causes a stink that starts in your kitchen and emanates outward. Take advantage of newly nice weather by taking them all outside and giving them a good scouring.

de-lint your dryer 

Lint is all up in your dryer, even if you can't see it — which not only increases drying time (and therefore energy inefficiency), but also the risk of fire. Get out your trusty vacuum and suck out whatever is inside your dryer and the duct.

check your basement 

If your basement is flood-prone, make sure your sump pump is working properly, and any noticeable cracks are caulked. Get any important items off the floor and onto shelves or other elevated surfaces.

wash your windows 

When it's pleasant enough to keep windows open (and once any storm windows are removed), clean the glass so it sparkles and lets in the sunshine. If you have window blinds get rid of the dust that's living on each of the slats. Wash your curtains next.

rotate your mattress 

Prevent body-shaped dips in your bed by alternating between flipping and rotating your mattress every season. Since no sane person will remember what they did last time, create and affix labels (one each for January, March, October, and July) for easy tracking.

clean up high 

We tend to forget to clean what's not directly in front of us or easily within reach. Get out a ladder and do your overhead lighting, lampshades, exhaust fans, and ceiling fans all at once. Vacuum any bugs out of light covers, and dust. Take care of any cobwebs while you're up there.

clean down low 

Try to tamp down your excessive enthusiasm as you get on hands and knees to clean the baseboards, taking care of dust and scuff marks. You might have deep cleaned your rugs last month, but now is also a good time to take them all outside and give them a good beating.

plant summer flowering bulbs 

Although fall is prime time for planting bulbs, you can still plant in springtime for summer blooms. If you're new to the gardening game, research when and what to put in the ground, according to your zone.

clean gutters 

Renters are off the hook with this one, but homeowners should check gutters for any clogs and clean out leaves. You'll prevent water damage to your building, and keep your plants from washing away when hit with the cascade of errant water.

set up a rain barrel 

Set up a system to collect water for your lawn and garden, then also use it to wash your car, dog, or outdoor gear. When it's pouring out you'll know you're doing what you can to capture, not waste, water. For drought-stricken areas, this is big.