

8 Things Professional Cleaners Say You Should Clean Every Month

The most forgotten areas that are likely due for a good cleaning.



Credit: Photographer, Basak Gurbuz Derman / Getty Images

Every homeowner knows the struggle of maintaining a clean home. After all, there are so many basic [areas to wipe down weekly](#) just to keep your home organized and sanitary from the week's use. But, outside of this weekly cleaning checklist are areas that require just as much attention that you might be

forgetting (or putting off... like us).

To know the areas that should be [cleaned monthly](#), along with the standard weekly practices, we spoke to two professional cleaners for the places they say are most important for a monthly shine. Here are the eight things to clean every month for a home that's truly spotless and sparkling clean!

Jessica Gonzalez is a cleaning expert at [Sparkly Maids San Antonio](#).

Scott Schrader is a cleaning expert at [CottageCare](#).

Ceiling Fan Blades



Credit:

Getty Images

While you might have remembered to make sure your ceiling fan spins [in the right direction](#) for the current season, when's the last time you gave the blades a much-needed wipe down? Both of our experts say this is a for-sure area to clean at least once a month. "Ceiling fan blades collect a significant amount of dust, and whenever you turn them on, that dust is blown right back into the air we breathe," says Schrader.

So, how do you [clean your ceiling fan blades](#)? Both of our experts say that a microfiber towel or an old pillowcase can help collect the unwanted dust. "Slide an old pillowcase over the blade and gently pull down—the dust stays in the pillowcase. Then wipe the blades down with a damp microfiber cloth. Doing this monthly will greatly help with the air quality in your home, especially in bedrooms," Schrader says.

Trash Cans

Emptying the trash isn't enough to [prevent funky odors from building up](#) in your home. According to our experts, you should aim to [clean your inside and outside trash cans](#) monthly for the best sanitary practices. Gonzalez says, "Even with liners, trash cans get smelly. We advise rinsing and scrubbing them out every month. Fill the hot water, add a small amount of dish soap, and a disinfecting spray to repel odors and maintain bacteria at bay."

To dry your trash cans, Schrader says to let them air dry in the sun since this is the best deodorizer for moving forward.

Blinds

If you're like me and despise [cleaning your blinds](#), then you might loathe seeing this task on the list. But, our experts say cleaning your blinds at least once a month is a needed practice to cut down on allergens that are floating around in your home. "Blinds can hold dust more than you think," Schrader says. "For wood or faux wood blinds, take a microfiber duster or clean sock, lightly sprayed with equal parts vinegar and water, and work it over the blinds. For fabric blinds, use your vacuum's upholstery tool."

Baseboards



Credit:

Getty Images

[Baseboards](#) are another area I'm not a fan of cleaning because

they're *everywhere*. However, I do notice a difference in shine and color when I take the time to clean them... I just need to add it to my monthly cleaning checklist instead of my yearly one!

"Baseboards are dust, pet hair, and shoe scuff magnets," says Gonzalez. "We always recommend the patience of walking around the house with a damp cloth or a Magic Eraser each month. It really makes the room shine brighter and your floors look like they just got cleaned."

Hardware & Doorknobs

Even after washing your hands, your home's hardware and doorknobs still hold a ton of bacteria. Schrader suggests wiping down cabinetry knobs or pulls, light switches, and doorknobs at least once a month to make your home more sanitary. "These high-touch spots hold more bacteria than you think. Using a disinfecting solution or other alcohol-based cleaner, wipe these spots down once a month. This takes very little time, but can greatly improve the health of your space," he says.

Kitchen Cabinets



Credit:

Getty Images

Similar to your hardware, Gonzalez says your kitchen cabinets can be a [bacteria breeding ground](#) without you even knowing it, which is why she suggests you add this area to your monthly cleaning checklist. "Fingerprints and grease build up quickly, especially around handles and cooking areas," she says. "Wipe these areas clean with a weak degreaser or watered-down vinegar and dry thoroughly. It keeps your kitchen looking clean between deep cleans."

Washing Machine & Dryer Parts

Bet you didn't think cleaning your washing machine and dryer would be part of this list! But honestly, after speaking to our

experts, it makes total sense why remembering to clean certain surfaces of these appliances is an exceptional practice. Schrader says his key areas of focus to clean monthly on these appliances are the detergent drawer and the gasket. "Mold and detergent gunk build up here fairly quickly. Wipe the detergent drawer out with a warm vinegar solution, and check the rubber gasket for grime. Monthly cleaning will keep odors down and your machine working properly."

For Gonzalez, she focuses on other surfaces that require just as much thought and cleaning. "People often forget that machines themselves should be cleaned. A month should be cleaned lids, knobs, and tops of machines so grime doesn't build up. Never forget to check for lint build-up around the dryer and vacuum it out," she says.

Air Vents

Lastly, Schrader says an area of focus to add to your list is your HVAC's air vents or grilles inside your home. While you don't need to swap your air filter out for this task (unless the filter has been in place for at least three to six months), he says you still need to inspect these areas to remove any built-up dust. "Dirty air vents recycle dust and allergens into your home every time your HVAC system kicks on. A quick brush/vacuum once a month with a soft-bristle brush attachment will prevent buildup. If you see deep grime, you can take off the cover plates and soak them in warm, soapy water. Clean vents equal cleaner air."