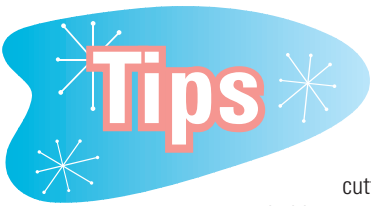


You may have mastered picking up after yourself, taking good care of the designer duds you've scrimped for, and generally keeping a hospitable place. But now it's time for deep cleaning. While it's still chilly outside, take the opportunity to stay indoors and be productive. It's not thrilling, but you will have some soulful satisfaction when the work is through.

Put a few favorite CDs in the changer — nothing too mellow, maybe mid-'90s Seattle sound. Later, you can put in a funny movie that you've seen a million times — enough to keep you entertained but not distracted.

If your place is pretty large, break the project into two days: one for cleaning, one for organizing. Start with cleaning, though, lest you get too involved sorting the junk drawer. Use the "carrot and stick" approach. "If I finish cleaning the bathroom, I can stop for a lunch break." Just don't lose momentum.

The dishwasher and washing machine can cycle constantly while you're working on other things. Load laundry that needs to air dry first, so you can keep it going. Strip the bed and flip the mattress. In subsequent loads, wash kitchen and bath towels, throw rugs and blankets, and tablecloths and napkins. Keep the lint screen emptied! Load the dishwasher with all of those small accessories that usually are forgotten: the



glass microwave platter, the sink dish rack, any bathroom cups and containers, ice trays, cutting boards, votive candle holders, etc. This also gives you more clear counter space for cleaning.

Develop a system: Dust first; then clean the floors. Don't create more work for yourself. Dust the high places, especially ceiling-fan blades and over the kitchen range, which will get grungy if you don't tackle them regularly. Use a vacuum crevice attachment to clear out the crud from windowsills and to capture the dust on trim molding. Also, vacuum the cracker crumbs from beneath sofa cushions. Be on the lookout for loose change.

Blankets, drapes and area rugs may need to be taken to the dry cleaners. This can be costly, but it's better than ruining a favorite piece. If it's a warm afternoon, beat rugs outside.

In the bathroom, throw out old meds and toiletries. Girls, clean out those nasty makeup drawers! Scrub the toilet. (It should be a weekly thing, anyway.) Re-grout the shower if needed. Check shower ceiling for mold spotting; you may need to paint a resistant undercoat.

Clean windows well and use a fingered duster between dirty blinds. All-purpose spray cleansers make fingerprints around doorknobs disappear. Rent a carpet cleaner if necessary. Wax wood floors. Dump any dead plants.



Dust the nooks of electronics and use CD or DVD cleaners. Switch outdated framed photos for more flattering ones. Create "keep," "dump," and "repair" piles for movies, books, and clothing. No waffling! Take the "dump" pile to a resale shop.

In the kitchen, clean and purge the fridge. Even with a self-cleaning oven, scrub

the racks and broiler tray. Make a wish list of cleaning supplies and organizational tools to maintain your space.

Then sit down and relax. Spring is almost here!

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WHO'S GOT THE GOODS?

Apartment Community	Telephone	Price Per Month	W/D Units or Hookups	Security System/Gated	Garages/Covered Parking	Fitness Center	Spa or Sauna	Pool	High-Speed Internet Access	Extra Cool
Post Addison Circle	972-392-6000	Call	•	•	•			•	•	On-site retail, urban environment, planned events for residents
South Side on Lamar	214-428-4848	Call	•		•	•	•	•	•	Cinema, party & billiard room, 24-hour concierge, 24-hour courtesy staff, barbecue area
Post White Rock	214-320-9651	Starting at \$536	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Distinctive living environment, private entrance into White Rock Lake Park, next door to Dallas Arboretum, 27 miles of walking trails
Oak Tree Condominiums	972-418-1775	Starting at \$595	•				•	•	•	Full-sized w/d included, free water, woodburning fireplace, wet bar, tennis courts, near three major highways
Trimark Landing Apartment Homes	214-341-4121	Starting at \$465	•			•		•	•	Three pools, park and pavilion, playground, pond, children's activity center, resident activity center, business center

