

FALL CLEANING CHECKLIST

1. **After a summer of use, clean your outdoor furniture** for the fall/winter season: usually a gallon of water with a ¼ c of Dawn detergent and a ¾ cup of bleach will work. Use a soft brush to wash and rinse using the hose; lay out to air dry. First check what your cushion tags say.
2. **Clean front door mat.** For most materials, other than coir, you can shake the front door mat out and wash on the driveway using a bit of Dawn detergent or laundry detergent with a soft brush; hose off with water and let dry in the sun.
3. **Wash down the front door.** I like Lysol All Purpose Cleaner.
4. **Clean carpets:** rent a machine from Home Depot or Ace to do it yourself or contact Stanley Steemer to do it for you.
5. **Check your bin/box of Halloween and Fall decorations.** Clean it out to see what is broken, torn, stained or faded – or that you really never use and throw out or give away to Goodwill if it's still in good condition – replace with one or two new decorations.
6. **Clean slip covers on sofas and throw cushions.** Many throw cushions have zippers; check the label inside to see if you can hand wash or take to the dry cleaner: time it to switch out with Fall seasonal cushions. If the cushion covers have zippers, just buy the covers going forward and switch out with any foam cushion insert.
7. **Start cleaning blinds and shutters:** do one room per week so it's manageable.
8. **Book Fall A/C maintenance check** so you are ready to switch over to some heating in a few months from now. Check when the last time was you put in new filters.
9. **Book fall chimney check** by a professional if you have a wood fireplace; or review maintenance guidelines for your gas-burning fireplace.
10. **Clean light fixtures in bathrooms, front hallway or other permanent ones.** To be careful, turn off power to this area first; wipe down using a multiple purpose cleaner appropriate for the fixture – aim is to get rid of dust and dead insects that might be in the glass enclosure!