

Surviving the Great Spring Clean-up of '82

Area firm's pointers help you
make home cleaning a breeze

Herald Special

In this age of computer technology, it is tempting to fantasize of simply pushing a button to accomplish our spring housecleaning chores. Unfortunately for most of us, that day has not yet arrived.

However, some local professionals would like to share a few time saving tips to make the job easier. The first temptation may be to clean an entire room all at once and then move on to the next.

In fact, the professionals find that their cleaning equipment and materials can be used more efficiently and their time organized more productively if they start with one task and complete that task in all rooms. For example, if you begin in one room cleaning walls, clean the walls in all rooms before moving on to your next job.

Here are some specific helpful hints on how to clean various household items as suggested by Jim Fleming of ServiceMaster, a Brampton-based firm serving Halton Hills.

Before you attack a soiled wall with your favorite cleaner, pretest the wall to make sure it's washable. This recommendation applies to painted surfaces as well as wallpaper. Extra strong solutions can remove paint - then you'll have a wall that needs repainting as well as

cleaning. If you pretest, you may notice your wall soaking up the cleaning solution. This means that the wall is a flat paint or dull finish surface.

Instead of pouring on more solution, spread it and dry the wall as quickly as possible before the liquid can seep inside the wall. When washing walls start at the bottom and work up thus keeping the cleaner from dripping through soiled areas and streaking the wall. When cleaning wallpaper with a vinyl finish use an up and down stroke instead of rubbing sideways. This protects your wallpaper by keeping the seams intact. Don't forget to wipe off those pictures and mirrors and replace them immediately upon completion of the wall.

Carpet and furniture manufacturers have determined that the life expectancy of their products can be extended as much as 25 per cent from an owner's regular care plus periodical cleaning by professionals. The professionals do not recommend that you attempt to clean fine furniture yourself as you may encounter colour transfer and shrinkage.

It is, however, very important to vacuum upholstered furniture regularly to remove soil and grit whose razor sharp edges can grind down fibres. Don't forget to vacuum the backs

of upholstered furniture as dust gathers there as well.

When considering carpet cleaning, keep in mind that many areas of your home receive little or no traffic and may not need cleaning as often as your main traffic areas. Cleaning professionals can tailor a program specifically designed for your cleaning needs. Should you decide to tackle this chore yourself remember to place coasters or aluminum foil under furniture feet until the carpet is dry to prevent rust or brown spots from developing.

Heavy furniture should be moved periodically to avoid permanently marring the carpet surface. Revive crushed spots by covering them with a damp cloth, holding a steam iron near (NOT ON) the surface and brushing the pile up.

Many homemakers depend on plastic mats to protect their carpets from tracked in soil and water. As helpful as this is in keeping your carpets clean, carpet authorities agree that this practice can be harmful to your carpet since these mats have an abrasive effect on the carpet fibres. The same is also true of remnants or area rugs that have rigid or coarse backing. Use only rugs that have soft, flexible backing on your carpeting around doorways - leave plastic and other rigid type mats outside.

Hopefully, these tips will help you get your spring cleaning done quickly and efficiently and allow you time to get out and enjoy the good weather ahead.

Windows play vital role in energy

Since a considerable amount of your home's exterior wall space may be made up of windows, the role they play in your home's energy efficiency is an important one.

Andersen Corporation, which manufactures Perma-

Shield windows and gliding doors, suggests selecting windows with built-in energy saving features, such as a preservative-treated wood core sash and frame, double-pane insulating glass and factory-applied weatherstripping.

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