



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Jane's Thanksgiving Cleaning Menu

A 7-week plan for a cleaner home, a calmer season, and more time for what matters most.

This is MY list, based on MY house.

Walk through yours. Cross off what doesn't apply. Add what your house needs. The house gets a vote.

Big jobs when I have big-job time.
Small jobs when I have small-job time.

MISSED ≠ OWED

We're getting ahead - not building a Thanksgiving debt.

**Grace for the mess.
Grit for the rest.**

xo, Jane

My 7-Week Thanksgiving Cleaning Menu

The regular Cleaning Menu keeps the house functioning. This one gets us ahead.

WEEK 1 • Observe, Declutter & Start at the Top

- ☐ Walk through every room and make your house-specific master list
- ☐ Prioritize the rooms that truly need a declutter
- ☐ Declutter the highest-need room(s)
- ☐ Knock down cobwebs
- ☐ Clean ceiling fans
- ☐ Wipe light fixtures and lamps
- ☐ Clean visible vent/air-return covers
- ☐ Wipe light switches
- ☐ Spot-clean/wash walls where needed
- ☐ Clean top of refrigerator/high surfaces

WEEK 2 • Finish Up High, Then Head Down & Under

- ☐ Finish important top-down jobs still worth doing
- ☐ Wash baseboards
- ☐ Clean inside couches/under cushions
- ☐ Clean underneath couches
- ☐ Clean under beds and tables
- ☐ Clean under entertainment stands/accessable furniture
- ☐ Move décor and clean underneath
- ☐ Roll back rugs and vacuum/sweep underneath
- ☐ Clean rugs as needed

WEEK 3 • Details & Storage

- ☐ Clean blinds
- ☐ Wipe doors and doorframes
- ☐ Clean door handles
- ☐ Wipe kitchen cabinet fronts
- ☐ Organize kitchen cabinets
- ☐ Purge, clean and organize pantry
- ☐ Inventory Thanksgiving staples
- ☐ Purge, clean and organize refrigerator
- ☐ Purge, clean and organize freezer

WEEK 4 • Let the Sunshine In

- ☐ Wash windows inside/out as needed
- ☐ Clean tracks and sills
- ☐ Clean sliders/glass doors and tracks
- ☐ Clean front door and guest entrance
- ☐ Sweep/clean porch
- ☐ Pressure wash porch/walkway as needed
- ☐ Pressure wash driveway/house as needed
- ☐ Pull weeds and tidy landscaping
- ☐ Clean outdoor gathering spaces if used

My 7-Week Menu • Weeks 5-7

As needed, hunnies. We are preparing the house we actually have - not hunting for extra chores.

WEEK 5 • The Stuff That Needs a Good Scrub

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Deep-clean oven | ☐ Spot-clean upholstery as needed |
| ☐ Clean curtains as appropriate | ☐ Dust/wipe appliance exteriors |
| ☐ Clean rugs as needed | ☐ Clean TV/sound bar carefully |
| ☐ Clean couches and upholstered chairs | ☐ Dust shelves, furniture and décor |

WEEK 6 • Catch Up & Get Ready to Host

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Finish only the important things that still matter | ☐ Check serving dishes/utensils |
| ☐ Check guest bedding | ☐ Check leftover storage supplies |
| ☐ Confirm towels from Week 1 are ready | ☐ Plan a place for coats/purses |
| ☐ Check bathroom supplies | ☐ Confirm refrigerator/freezer space |
| ☐ Confirm seating and dining setup | |

WEEK 7 • Super Scrub & Reset

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Super-scrub bathrooms | ☐ Clean microwave/stovetop |
| ☐ Wash guest linens and make beds | ☐ Deep-clean sink/faucet and trash can |
| ☐ Wash good towels and have them ready | ☐ Final floors as needed |
| ☐ Final refrigerator purge | ☐ Reset EVERY room - not another declutter |
| ☐ Make room for Thanksgiving food | ☐ Final porch/entry touch-up |

Missed ≠ Owed. Week 6 is a buffer, not a debt-collection week.

Room-by-Room • Living Spaces

Cross off what your house doesn't need. Add what it does. The house gets a vote.

Living Room / Den

- ☐ Declutter if needed
- ☐ Reset room
- ☐ Remove cobwebs
- ☐ Clean ceiling fan/light fixtures/vents
- ☐ Spot-clean walls
- ☐ Clean switches, doors, frames & handles
- ☐ Clean blinds
- ☐ Wash windows/tracks/sills
- ☐ Wash baseboards
- ☐ Clean inside & underneath couches
- ☐ Clean upholstery as needed
- ☐ Dust furniture, TV/electronics, shelves & décor
- ☐ Clean underneath furniture
- ☐ Clean underneath rugs
- ☐ Clean rugs as needed
- ☐ Vacuum/mop
- ☐ Final reset

Dining Room

- ☐ Declutter if needed
- ☐ Remove cobwebs
- ☐ Clean fan/light fixture/vents
- ☐ Spot-clean walls
- ☐ Clean switches, doors, frames & handles
- ☐ Clean blinds/windows
- ☐ Wash baseboards
- ☐ Clean table
- ☐ Clean chairs, including legs/rungs
- ☐ Dust furniture/décor
- ☐ Clean underneath furniture/rug
- ☐ Check/clean table linens
- ☐ Vacuum/mop
- ☐ Final reset

My house needs: _____

Room-by-Room • Kitchen & Food Storage

Cross off what your house doesn't need. Add what it does. The house gets a vote.

Kitchen

- ☐ Declutter counters
- ☐ Organize cabinets
- ☐ Wipe cabinet fronts/tops
- ☐ Remove cobwebs
- ☐ Clean lights/fan/vents
- ☐ Spot-clean walls
- ☐ Clean switches, doors, frames & handles
- ☐ Clean blinds/windows
- ☐ Wash baseboards
- ☐ Clean backsplash
- ☐ Deep-clean oven
- ☐ Clean stovetop
- ☐ Clean microwave
- ☐ Clean dishwasher as needed
- ☐ Wipe appliance exteriors
- ☐ Clean top of refrigerator
- ☐ Deep-clean sink/faucet
- ☐ Clean/sanitize trash can
- ☐ Clean under accessible appliances as needed
- ☐ Vacuum/mop
- ☐ Final reset

Pantry / Refrigerator / Freezer

- ☐ Toss expired/unwanted food
- ☐ Take inventory
- ☐ Wipe shelves/drawers
- ☐ Clean & organize
- ☐ Check Thanksgiving staples
- ☐ Make room for holiday groceries
- ☐ Make room for prepared food/leftovers
- ☐ Final refrigerator purge

Make room before the food arrives. 🍷

My house needs: _____

Room-by-Room • Bathrooms & Towels

Cross off what your house doesn't need. Add what it does. The house gets a vote.

Bathrooms

- ☐ Declutter counters/storage
- ☐ Remove cobwebs
- ☐ Clean fan/vent/lights
- ☐ Clean walls as needed
- ☐ Clean switches, doors, frames & handles
- ☐ Clean blinds/windows if applicable
- ☐ Wash baseboards
- ☐ Super-scrub shower/tub
- ☐ Clean shower door/curtain/liner
- ☐ Scrub toilet
- ☐ Scrub sink/faucet
- ☐ Clean mirror/cabinet fronts
- ☐ Wash bath mats
- ☐ Deep-clean floor
- ☐ Restock supplies
- ☐ Put out fresh towels
- ☐ Final reset

Week 7: nothing left unscrubbed. 🧼

Week 1 Towel Inventory - Do This Early

- ☐ Check bath towels
- ☐ Check hand towels
- ☐ Check washcloths
- ☐ Separate worn/stained towels
- ☐ Turn suitable old towels into cleaning rags
- ☐ Count guest-worthy towels
- ☐ Decide whether replacements are needed
- ☐ Buy now, watch for a sale, or budget to buy before Thanksgiving

Old towels become rags. New towels welcome guests. Everybody gets a job.

My house needs: _____

Room-by-Room • Guest & Kids' Bedrooms

Cross off what your house doesn't need. Add what it does. The house gets a vote.

Guest Bedroom(s)

- ☐ Declutter if needed
- ☐ Return misplaced items home
- ☐ Remove cobwebs
- ☐ Clean fan/lights/vents
- ☐ Spot-clean walls
- ☐ Clean switches, doors, frames & handles
- ☐ Clean blinds/windows
- ☐ Wash baseboards
- ☐ Dust bed frame/furniture
- ☐ Clean underneath bed/furniture
- ☐ Straighten closet
- ☐ Make room for guests' belongings
- ☐ Check pillows/sheets/blankets
- ☐ Wash linens & make bed
- ☐ Vacuum/mop
- ☐ Final reset

Kids' Bedroom(s)

- ☐ Quick toy organization
- ☐ Quick clothing organization
- ☐ Declutter if needed
- ☐ Find homes for belongings
- ☐ Straighten closet
- ☐ Clean underneath bed/furniture
- ☐ Remove cobwebs
- ☐ Clean fan/lights/vents
- ☐ Spot-clean walls
- ☐ Clean switches, doors, frames & handles
- ☐ Clean blinds/windows
- ☐ Wash baseboards
- ☐ Dust furniture
- ☐ Clean rugs as needed
- ☐ Vacuum/mop
- ☐ Wash bedding closer to Thanksgiving
- ☐ Final reset
- ☐ Put special/sentimental belongings safely away

Thanksgiving = organize. Christmas = PURGE. ☹️

My house needs: _____

Room-by-Room • Master Bedroom

Cross off what your house doesn't need. Add what it does. The house gets a vote.

Master Bedroom

- ☐ Quick clothing organization
- ☐ Declutter surfaces if needed
- ☐ Straighten closet
- ☐ Clean underneath bed/furniture
- ☐ Remove cobwebs
- ☐ Clean fan/lights/vents
- ☐ Spot-clean walls
- ☐ Clean switches, doors, frames & handles
- ☐ Clean blinds/windows
- ☐ Wash baseboards
- ☐ Dust bed frame/headboard
- ☐ Dust nightstands/dressers
- ☐ Clean rugs as needed
- ☐ Vacuum/mop
- ☐ Wash bedding closer to Thanksgiving
- ☐ Final reset

My house needs: _____

Entry, Exterior & Hosting Readiness

Cross off what your house doesn't need. Add what it does. The house gets a vote.

Entryway / Porch / Exterior

- ☐ Declutter entry
- ☐ Remove cobwebs
- ☐ Clean front door/glass
- ☐ Clean switches/handles
- ☐ Dust furniture/décor
- ☐ Clean/shake out doormat
- ☐ Sweep porch
- ☐ Pressure wash porch/walkway as needed
- ☐ Pressure wash driveway/house as needed
- ☐ Clean outdoor furniture
- ☐ Pull weeds/tidy landscaping
- ☐ Remove dead plants/debris
- ☐ Tidy guest-visible areas
- ☐ Final sweep

Hosting Readiness

- ☐ Confirm Week 1 towels are clean & ready
- ☐ Guest bedding
- ☐ Toilet paper
- ☐ Hand soap/tissues
- ☐ Trash bags
- ☐ Enough seating
- ☐ Table linens
- ☐ Serving dishes/utensils
- ☐ Trivets/hot pads
- ☐ Leftover containers/foil/bags
- ☐ Place for coats/purses
- ☐ Refrigerator/freezer space
- ☐ Special/fragile belongings safely stored

My house needs: _____

Jane's Two Scents

Put the Special Things Away

Before company arrives, put sentimental, fragile, irreplaceable, private, or especially precious belongings somewhere safe. There will be plenty to enjoy. We're getting the house ready for company - but we're still allowed to protect the things that make it our home.

Thanksgiving Landing Zone • Nov. 23-25

- ☐ Cooking & food prep
- ☐ Dishes
- ☐ Wipe counters
- ☐ Empty trash
- ☐ Quick bathroom resets
- ☐ Everyday picking up
- ☐ Quick sweep/vacuum if needed
- ☐ Final porch/entry touch-up

NO PROJECTS. NO DEEP CLEANING. NO FOOLISHNESS.
If a baseboard didn't get washed, that baseboard has received a Thanksgiving pardon. ☐

The point isn't to arrive at Thanksgiving with the cleanest house anybody has ever seen. It's to have a cared-for home, comfortable guests, and enough energy left to enjoy the people we did all this work to welcome.

Missed ≠ Owed.

Grace for the mess. Grit for the rest.

xo, Jane