



Spring Cleaning Your Kitchen (WEEK ONE-DAY SIX)

Before We Begin-

I can't believe it, but here we are... our last day in our kitchen. I hope that after this week you will want to spend lots of time in your newly organized space and will enjoy making and sharing meals with your loved ones. We have just a few things to wrap up and then we can enjoy a day of rest tomorrow! Make sure that you have a **one hour block of time** for each task that we are going to accomplish this week. Good luck and I can't wait to see what you have done in your kitchen!

Meal Idea for Tonight:

Cheater's Clam Chowder

2 cans condensed cream of potato soup - (10.75-ounce)

2 cans New England clam chowder - (10.75 ounce)

4 potatoes

2 cans minced clams (6.5 ounce)

1 quart half-and-half cream

1 pint heavy whipping cream

Mix cream of potato soup, clam chowder, 1 can undrained clams, 1 can drained clams, half-and-half cream, and whipping cream into a slow cooker. Cover, and cook on low for 2-3 hours.

Day Six

Task to Accomplish: Final tidy!

Formula for Clean: You will need your all-purpose spray, glass cleaner, old newspapers, a microfiber cloth, and whatever you use to do a quick and final sweep in your kitchen.

This is the final sweep through the kitchen and your chance to pull everything together. Pull everything from your counters and wipe your counters down with your all-purpose spray and your microfiber cloth. Make sure to swipe all of your canister lids and reduce any clutter that you can while you are moving everything around. Make sure to do a good job around the crevices of your sink, where dirt and muck can abound.

If you have a crock for your spoons and cooking utensils, make sure to pull everything out and give the crock a good rinse. Put all of your spoons back into the crock and put it back in its place.

Once you have everything back in place on the counters, move to your table and chairs (in your dining area or in your kitchens). Proceed to clean these- dust with furniture polish or use your microfiber cloth and all-purpose spray (depending on the type of furniture you have). Make sure to pull everything from your table while you are cleaning it. Drape a pretty tablecloth over your table and feel free to add a centerpiece.

Next give the inside and outside of your windows and (if you have one) door in your kitchen a good cleaning with your glass cleaner and newspaper. This is a great time to put your screens back in, if you take them down for the season.

Wipe the outside of your trash can with your all-purpose cleaner and your microfiber cloth.

Wipe the exterior of your cabinets. For solid wood, veneer, or laminate simply wipe the cabinets with a damp cloth and dry them with a soft dry towel. For heavier grime, you can dip a cloth in a solution of one gallon of water mixed with ¼ cup dishwashing soap and gently wash the exterior.

Do a quick broom sweep now that everything is all put together. Remember, no need to deeply clean the floor because we did that already!

Stand back in amazement and make sure to reward yourself for all your hard work! Give yourself a foot soak tonight, buy yourself a coffee, indulge in a little reading- you truly deserve it!

EXTRA CREDIT:

Here are the extra credit assignments that will put you ahead of your class!

Take a few minutes and clean your toaster oven. First, unplug the unit and make sure it is completely cool before cleaning. If you wipe spills up as they occur, it will be a lot easier to keep this appliance clean. Wash the racks in warm soapy water. Use a damp soft cloth to clean out the interior and never ever submerge your toaster oven in water. If burned food discolors the paint on your toaster oven, you can try using a liquid degreaser to help minimize the discoloration, but nothing will remove it entirely.

To clean a standard toaster, again make sure the unit is unplugged and completely cool. Carry the toaster oven to the sink, and slide out the crumb tray (located at the very bottom of the toaster) and dump out the crumbs. Next turn the toaster upside down and let any remaining crumbs fall into the sink (if you have a disposal) or over your trashcan. Wipe the exterior with a soft cloth that has been dampened a bit with water & dishwashing soap. The chrome surfaces can be wiped down with a little all-purpose cleaner sprayed on a cloth. Don't spray into the unit, just spray on the cloth.

While you are cleaning off your counters, you could also clean the microwave. Fill a bowl halfway with water and boil it for two to three minutes. After it is done VERY CAREFULLY remove the hot water and wipe away the stains that have been loosened by the steam. To remove odors, clean the interior with a solution of one tablespoon baking soda to one cup warm water and a rag. Next, you can swipe with plain water (to remove the grit) and dry with a towel. Never use abrasive pads or powders inside your microwave.

Coffee pots are quick to clean too. If your coffee pot doesn't have a sensor to notify you that it needs attention, you might want to look inside and see if you see hard water deposits building up. These deposits slow down your cup of joe and it doesn't give you the perfect cup of coffee you deserve. Pour one quart of white vinegar into the carafe, and then fill it to the ten-cup level with cold water. Pour this mixture into your reservoir as though you were about to make a cup of coffee. Place a fresh paper filter in the basket and then turn your machine on. Allow the machine to go through an entire brew cycle. When it is done, VERY CAREFULLY dump the vinegar and water mixture out and refill the carafe with plain tap water all the way to the top line. Repeat the same steps you did before, but just using the plain water. Now your coffee pot will be able to work at its optimum performance (just like you after you have a cup!)