

5 Spring Cleaning Dos and Don'ts By Woman's Day

These five tricks will make your spring cleaning process more efficient and your home cleaner—you can thank us later!

1. **“When cleaning, start from the highest point in a room** and move down, so any dust stirred up can be vacuumed at the end,” says Denise Baron, owner of CarleysCleaning.com. Vertical surfaces like walls can collect dust, too, especially if they're textured. Every month or so, [rubber band](#) a microfiber cloth to the end of your mop or broom and sweep walls top to bottom before vacuuming.
2. **Bathrooms and kitchens are where moisture meets dust**, making cleanup that much harder. Vacuum first, Baron says: “It helps reduce the amount of dirt and dust your mop needs to collect.”
3. **Don't skimp on carpet cleaning.** “About half the soil remains, even with the best vacuums,” Rathey says. Do hot-water extraction regularly.
4. **Keep sticky, greasy kitchen residue at bay** with regular surface wipe-downs and dust won't adhere as easily, Handrick says.
5. **Use clean tools so you don't just move dust around.** When your mop head or cloth gets soiled, it's time to rinse it, clean it or change it, even if it's after each swipe. “When it's soiled, it doesn't do you any good to keep using it,” says Handrick. Paper towels may seem easier, but they just release more dust into the air. To get more mileage out of a single cloth, Rathey recommends folding it in half, then in half again—that's eight.