

HouseBeautiful



Complete these 31 household jobs for each day of January to achieve your happiest home yet

From vacuuming forgotten places to cleaning out the fridge ... The new year means a fresh start and a new you – so on top of health and lifestyle resolutions, why not also incorporate household targets into your January schedule?

It's always good to have a regular cleaning routine for general daily and weekly tasks in your home, such as washing bed sheets, polishing furniture and vacuuming floors. But what about the jobs that are forgotten about or put off?

That's why we've compiled a household chores schedule for each of the 31 days of January – made up of all the neglected yet important jobs. By the end of the month, your home should be more clean, comfortable and clutter-free than ever before.

January 1: Get organised

It's nice and easy on the first day of the year, as you might not be feeling in tip-top condition after last night's shenanigans. Take down old calendars and fill in and hang up new ones (we recommend Oliver Bonas 2018 calendar, £10 or Busy B large family organiser 2018, £7.99). Also chuck out old cleaning equipment and replace with new pieces, such as sponges, cloths, vacuum bags, tea towels and mops (try the Smart String telescopic floor mop, £13.99, Lakeland).

January 2: Sort post

If you have a pile of post that stacks up as the weeks go by get organising. Open every piece and sort – you may also want to create a filing system so you can store important documents, like bills, formal letters, etc. It's key to keep on top of this as the year progresses. Wilko's letter rack with drawer, £12, is a stylish way to organise your post.

January 3: Clean and disinfect bins

Whether in the kitchen, bathroom or bedroom, empty and clean the inside and outside of the bins throughout your home. Wipe down and sanitise to ensure optimum hygiene standards.

January 4: Deep clean the oven

After the Christmas festivities, your oven will have, no doubt, been put to a lot of use. So now's a great time to give it that much-needed deep clean. Follow our step-by-step guide to cleaning your oven here.

January 5: Defrost and clean your fridge and freezer

This is a job that should get done every once in a while so today is as good a day as any to do so. Empty and turn off the fridge/freezer, and allow to defrost. Clean the refrigerator inside and out, remove all fridge trays, racks and cabinet shelves and soak them in soapy water. Once dry, put them back inside the refrigerator. Your fridge/freezer will now look sparkling clean.

January 6: Vacuum all the forgotten places in your home

Obviously, you should vacuum on a regular basis to keep your home in its best condition, but it's easy to neglect certain areas, such as mattresses and underneath beds. This day is all about vacuuming these forgotten places – find out where here.

January 7: Clean all your houseplants

Give the plants in your home a quick wipe down to remove any dust and dirt. This will leave them fresh, healthy and more attractive.

January 8: Clean your bookshelves

The bookworms among us will know how easy it is for dust to accumulate along packed bookshelves. So freshen it up – take down all the books and wash and clean the shelves. Also dust the books before placing them back in their former position. It will look newly spick and span.

January 9: Clean the windows and window sills

This is your chance to clean all the windows in your house from the inside, along with all the window sills. Remove any mould, streaks and dirt. Also use this day to book in a professional window cleaner to wash all your windows from the outside, making them glisten.

January 10: Sort through clothes

Many people are guilty of hoarding clothes, thinking there will always be another time you'll wear that lovely top you bought 10 years ago, which doesn't quite fit anymore. It's time to be ruthless – go through your wardrobe and clothes drawers and get rid of old, unused clothes by donating them to charity or selling items online. This will free up a lot more storage space.

January 11: Clean mirrors and picture frames

Try this cleaning hack using a popular tippie for streak-free mirrors. Also go round the house wiping down picture and photo frames.

January 12: Wash skirting boards

One job that doesn't get done as much as it should is cleaning skirting boards. Now is the time to put in some elbow grease and get them looking clean and bright.

January 13: Sort through kitchen drawers and cupboards

Just like the clutter elsewhere in the home, the junk in the kitchen also needs to go. If you have drawers full of unnecessary little bits and bobs, and cupboards full of unused utensils, then get rid of them. You'll feel better for it!

January 14: Sort through bedroom drawers

The same goes for drawers in bedrooms. Any clutter that has built up needs to be taken out. Everything that you are keeping should be put back and organised neatly.

January 15: Declutter what's in your loft/storage space

You may have a secret pile of junk locked away in the loft, or hoarded in your garage. Either way, it needs a thorough declutter. For more tips on how to make the most of decluttering, read our advice here. If you've got open shelving, store things you want to keep in these plastic rattan storage boxes (£14.99, Argos).

January 16: Clean and sort underneath beds

Another area of the home that is often forgotten about, or used as a dumping ground for random items, is under the bed. Declutter, clean, and organise.

January 17: Dust out-of-sight surfaces

Dust and clean all of the shelves and surfaces out of sight, such as the tops of cupboards and high shelves – try the OXO Good Grips microfibre hand duster, £10 from Amazon, which promises to grab and trap dust.

January 18: Mop floors

As well as vacuuming the floors in your home, it's important to carry out a deep mop of the uncarpeted surfaces. Get into all the corners and cracks to leave your floors sparkling clean.

January 19: Remove any bathroom limescale and blockages

Your bathroom may have a build-up of mould and limescale so use the handy cleaning products designed to break these down, including a solution of white vinegar and fresh lemon juice. For any blockages, use drain cleaner to enable free flowing water in the bath, shower and sink.

January 20: Clean grout

If you have any tiles in your home, it's easy for the grout between to become discoloured over time. For some useful tips on how to clean tainted grout, see here.

January 21: Clean whole sofa

Rather than just vacuuming and brushing down your sofa, it's time to clean the entire piece of furniture. If you have washable fabrics clean them as per the washing instructions, if not have them professionally cleaned in situ.

January 22: Clean radiators

This is the day to clean all the radiators in your home, washing all the crevices and corners.

January 23: Wash curtains and clean blinds

Your curtains and blinds can get surprisingly dirty in quite a short space of time. Wash your fabric curtains and clean your plastic and wooden blinds. For a little helping hand, read our ultimate guide to cleaning blinds here.

January 24: Clean staircases and banisters

Clean and polish along banisters to make your stairs look fresh and new.

January 25: Tidy the garden

It's not all about the inside of your home – the outside space also needs a look in. Clean patios and decking, rake any leaves and debris, neatly arrange any garden furniture, declutter the shed, and perhaps even give your fence a new lick of paint (weather permitting). Why not make your outside space a priority this year with the help of this garden wall planner planting calendar (£12.50, Notonthehighstreet.com)? It's perfect for organising when to sow, plant and harvest your vegetables and organise your gardening year.

January 26: Deep clean your carpets

You'll be surprised how much dirt, dust and hair builds up in your carpet. On top of regular vacuuming, a deep clean is sometimes needed. It will help restore the carpet's colour and texture. Use a high-performance vacuum cleaner (like the Shark DuoClean cordless vacuum cleaner with Flexology, £299.99, Amazon) or hire a professional to rejuvenate your carpets.

January 27: Steam clean your microwave

If you have a microwave, it's safe to say you probably use it a good deal. So, a proper clean is often needed. Tackle the build-up of food and grease by using a solution of vinegar and water. Heat a measuring jug with a 50-50 solution for 10 minutes in your microwave, until it steams up. Remove the jug and then use a cloth to wipe away the moisture and dirt. Voila!

January 28: Dust and clean light features

Lamps, light switches, shades and bulbs all need to be cleaned but are often forgotten. Today is the day to get on with this – remove dirt, dust and bacteria.

January 29: Clean the car

Time to get outside again to deep clean your car. Wash the outside and inside thoroughly, vacuuming, cleaning and polishing. See it as an extension of your home.

January 30: Clear out gutters

Today can be about cleaning out your gutters from gunk, leaves and debris. This will allow rainwater to flow away properly – trapped water can freeze and expand, causing damage in the process. You could even add a plastic or wire mesh to prevent future build-up.

January 31: Clean dishwasher and washing machine

Clean the inside and outside of your two helpful friends – the dishwasher and washing machine. This will give them a new lease of life, make them more hygienic and look much better.

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