

## Ask Cindy

# Holiday Seasons Cleaning



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**By Cynthia Inman Pres AKA**

Holidays are for kids (from 1-102) and it's that time of year again. Holiday time! Whether you will celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Three King's Day or Kwanza we here at Ask Cindy wish you a wonderful time with family and friends throughout the holidays. Actually, no matter the celebration, I'm sure that they all will be observed with lots of gifts, food preparation, dinner guests, clothing selection, special school schedules and oh yes - house cleaning tasks. Well, while I've covered this before, I think it is worth it to revisit the discussion of where to begin and how to organize the housekeeping duties.

The following will give you some general guidelines:

### **The Plan**

As would be the case with any task or project for home improvement, you must consider what's needed to do the job. In other words, you need the proper equipment and supplies. Note, I said "proper".

Next, you need your cleaning agents. You need a degreaser (kitchen,) a cleanser for bathrooms and kitchens (get both liquid and powder,) soap and scum cleaner for tile shower walls and ceilings, toilet bowl cleaner, cleaner for counter tops and oven glass, stainless steel polish, furniture polish, and a polish for antique or genuine Early American furniture, (the polish is different), a clear water-based liquid cleaner for wood floors, paper towels (2 ply,) a cleaning disinfectant (for bathroom floors), and a non-toxic grout cleaner.

Now, ideally you would consider each area of the home to tackle based on intensity of need and time availability. The key here is to schedule the task that can be completed in the allotted time. I would always afford an extra 15 minutes to do a task.

### **Organization**

Once you determine your time and project, it's now time to organize. One of the organizational requirements is to ensure that the time allocated will be free from interruptions. The last thing you need once

you get started is to have your best friend drop by for tea. You must also ensure that the area you're tackling will be relatively free of traffic. So make final calls for the bathroom or make sure everyone knows that the kitchen is "closed for cleaning."

Next, if furniture is to be moved, decide where to place it before starting. Lastly, lay out your cleaning steps ahead of getting started. Generally, one will always start at the top and work your way down. In other words use the Hi/Lo principle. Start with the cleaning and wiping of hi surfaces and then come down lower surfaces.

### **Preparation**

Now we come to preparation. You must take things step by step. First, relocate furniture. Bring only the equipment needed for the task. There is nothing worse than having equipment and supplies all over the place when they are not needed. After completing one area, return unneeded equipment/cleaning supplies to proper storage. Think ahead for what is required for the next task.

Remember: Safety first - Cleaning requires a well thought out process. Make sure that you operate with a mind of efficiency while planning your next steps. Accidents are often associated with a lack of preplanning.

Also, make sure you use the right product for the right job. For now, let it suffice to say that you should make sure to read each label for yourself as it relates to purpose and application. I.E., use a degreaser for areas where grease has accumulated. In some situations, it may require a 2 - step process for the greatest outcome. On the exterior of the oven you may first use the degreaser then the glass cleaner for best results. Please remember, the better the surface is cleaned, the longer the interval, before cleaning is required again.

**Again, have a happy, healthy, clean holiday season.**

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**Note:** Ask Cindy will hold a special seminar on kitchen cleaning at the fabulous "It's My Party" located at 114 Boston Post Road on Wednesday - January 31, 2007 from 7:30 - 9pm. All aspects of Kitchen cleaning will be discussed from specialty surface care; renewal cleaning of all cabinetry, stainless steel appliances (faux and solid), maintenance of self cleaning ovens, and so much more. My recommended cleaning products with solution strengths will be given. My favorite cleaning cloths and ergonomic cleaning tools for superior cleaning outcomes will be on site.

Bring your cleaning dilemmas via pictures and questions for personal answers. Register early - A new year's resolution for your home life in your life time!

Start by calling Liv at 914-381-2329

First come basis for sitting

Wednesday - January 31, 2007 - Ask Cindy Event