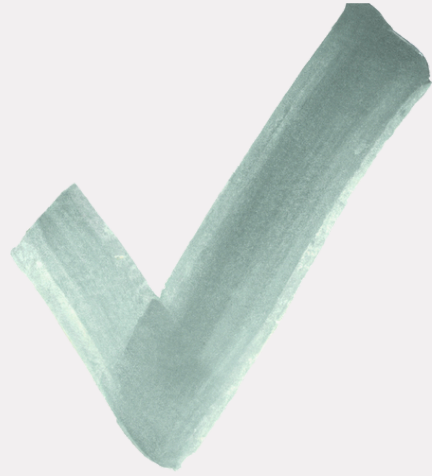




Keep Your House Guest-Ready

A Guide to Cleanliness, Order,
and Basic Stocking

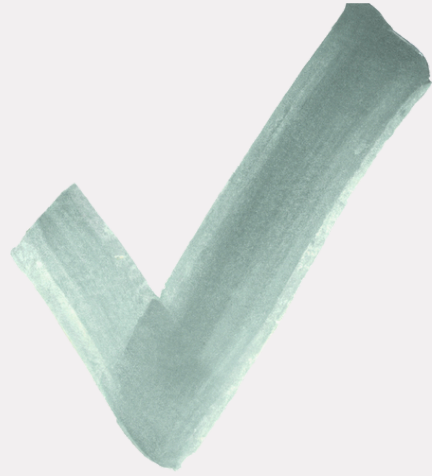


1. Daily Habits for a Clean and Tidy Home

Incorporate these quick tasks into your routine to prevent clutter and mess from piling up. Aim for 10–15 minutes daily.

- **Make the Bed:** Smooth bedding instantly tidies bedrooms (2 minutes).
- **Wipe Surfaces:** Use a damp cloth or all-purpose cleaner on kitchen counters, bathroom sinks, and coffee tables to remove dust and smudges (3 minutes).
- **Clear Clutter:** Return items to their place—put away dishes, fold blankets, and stow shoes (3 minutes).
- **Sweep or Spot-Clean Floors:** Focus on high-traffic areas like the kitchen or entryway (3 minutes).
- **Empty Trash:** Take out small bins daily to avoid odors (1 minute).
- **Pro Tip:** Set a timer for 10 minutes each evening to tackle these tasks. Consistency prevents big cleanups.

2. Weekly Cleaning Checklist

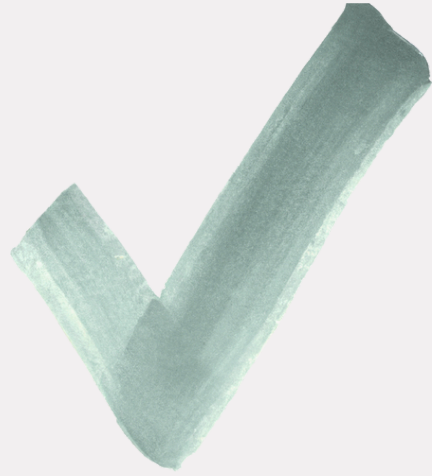


Dedicate 1-2 hours weekly to deeper cleaning. Spread tasks over a few days if needed to keep it manageable.

- Time-Saver: Use multi-surface cleaners (e.g., Mrs. Meyer's or Method) to streamline tasks.
- Guest Prep: Focus on guest-facing areas (living room, bathroom) first if time is tight.

Area	Tasks
Kitchen	Clean appliances (microwave, fridge exterior), mop floor, wipe cabinets.
Bathroom	Scrub toilet, clean sink and shower, replace towels, mop floor.
Living Areas	Vacuum or sweep floors, dust furniture, clean glass surfaces (mirrors, TV).
Bedrooms	Change bedding, vacuum under furniture, organize nightstands.
Entry Way	Organize shoes, wipe down door handles, sweep or vacuum.

3. Organization Tips to Stay Guest-Ready



A clutter-free home looks inviting and is easier to clean. Use these strategies to maintain order.

- **Designate a Place for Everything:**
 - Use baskets or bins for shoes, keys, and mail in the entryway.
 - Keep a “miscellaneous” box for stray items, sorting it weekly.
- **Guest Bathroom Prep:**
 - Store extra toilet paper, hand soap, and clean towels in a visible spot for easy access.
 - Keep a small cleaning caddy under the sink for quick touch-ups.
- **Living Room Hacks:**
 - Use decorative ottomans or coffee tables with storage for blankets or magazines.
 - Limit decorative items to reduce dusting time.
- **Quick Declutter Rule:** If it takes less than 60 seconds to put away (e.g., hanging a coat), do it immediately.
- **Pro Tip:** Before guests arrive, do a 5-minute sweep: fluff pillows, fold throws, and clear coffee table clutter.

4. Basic Pantry and Fridge Stocking for Snacks and Drinks



Keep these essentials on hand for quick, guest-friendly snacks and drinks. All items are shelf-stable or long-lasting, with some Paleo-friendly options for versatility.

Pantry Item	Why It's Great	Storage Tip
Nuts (almonds, cashews)	Crunchy, Paleo-friendly, universally liked.	Store in airtight containers.
Crackers (simple, whole grain or gluten-free)	Pairs with cheese or dips, quick to serve.	Keep in original box or tin.
Dark Chocolate (70%+)	Sweet treat, Paleo-friendly in moderation.	Store in a cool, dry place.
Popcorn Kernels	Easy to pop fresh, budget-friendly.	Use airtight jar for longevity.
Canned Sparkling Water	Refreshing, zero-sugar drink option.	Stack in pantry for easy access.
Herbal Tea Bags	Quick hot drink, caffeine-free for all guests.	Store in a small tin or box.

Fridge

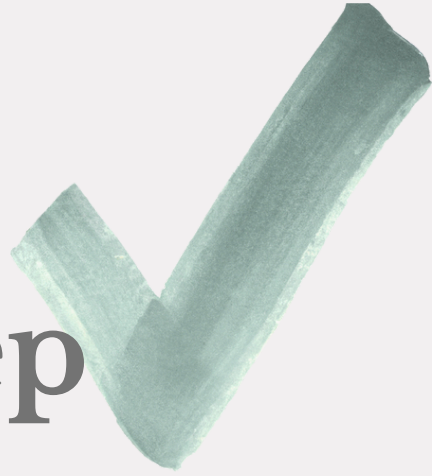
Item	Why It's Great	Storage
Cheese (cheddar, brie)	Pairs with crackers, widely enjoyed (non-Paleo).	Wrap tightly in wax paper or foil.
Hummus	Dip for veggies or crackers, vegan-friendly.	Store in front for quick grabs.
Fresh Veggies (carrots, celery)	Crunchy, Paleo-friendly, pairs with hummus.	Keep pre-cut in containers.
Sparkling Water (cans or bottles)	Cold, refreshing, guest-ready drink.	Chill 4–6 cans in fridge door.
Lemon/Lime	Add to water for a fresh touch, Paleo-friendly.	Store in crisper drawer.

Quick Snack Ideas for Guests

- Nut & Cheese Plate: Arrange almonds, cashews, and cheddar slices with crackers (5 minutes).
- Veggie & Hummus Dip: Serve pre-cut carrots and celery with hummus (3 minutes).
- Popcorn & Chocolate: Pop fresh popcorn and offer dark chocolate squares (10 minutes).
- Drinks: Offer chilled sparkling water with a lemon slice or brewed herbal tea (5 minutes).
- Stocking Tip: Check quantities weekly. Keep 1–2 weeks' worth of each item to avoid last-minute runs.
- Paleo Note: Skip cheese and crackers for Paleo guests; focus on nuts, veggies, and sparkling water.



5. Emergency Guest Prep (10 Minutes or Less)



If guests arrive unexpectedly, follow this quick routine to make your home presentable:

1. Living Room (4 minutes):

- Fluff couch pillows, fold blankets.
- Clear coffee table clutter into a basket (sort later).
- Spot-wipe surfaces with a damp cloth.

2. Bathroom (3 minutes):

- Wipe sink and mirror with a cloth.
- Ensure toilet paper and hand soap are stocked.
- Hang fresh hand towel.

3. Kitchen (2 minutes):

- Clear dishes from sink (stack in dishwasher if needed).
- Wipe countertops.
- Set out a snack (e.g., nuts or crackers).

4. Final Touch (1 minute):

- Light a candle or open a window for a fresh scent.
- Offer guests a drink (sparkling water or tea) to shift focus from minor mess.

6. Maintenance Schedule



To stay guest-ready, follow this schedule:

- Daily: 10-minute tidy (bed, surfaces, clutter).
- Weekly: 1-2 hour cleaning (rotate areas).
- Biweekly: Restock pantry and fridge essentials.
- Monthly: Deep-clean one area (e.g., fridge interior, baseboards).

Why this works!

- **Simplicity:** Daily habits and weekly tasks prevent overwhelming cleanups.
- **Preparedness:** Stocked essentials mean you're always ready to host.
- **Flexibility:** Paleo-friendly and standard options cover most guest preferences.
- **Peace of Mind:** A tidy home reduces stress, letting you enjoy your guests.