Meadowlark Home Cleaning
Family-owned house cleaning · Gresham, Oregon · free guide

SEASON BY SEASON

Home-Care Calendar for the Gresham to Hood River Corridor

East of the Willamette the weather changes how a house gets dirty. Spring pollen, summer dust and smoke, fall leaves and mud, and a wet winter all ask different things of a home. This calendar puts the right jobs in the right season so you are never catching up.

Spring

- [ ] Wipe window sills, tracks and screens. Tree pollen starts in late winter and usually finishes by the end of May[1]
- [ ] Wash entry mats and rugs, then replace the furnace or air handler filter
- [ ] Dust ceiling fans and vents before you run the air conditioning for the first time
- [ ] Open the windows on a dry day for fresh air, then close them before pollen counts climb
- [ ] Do a deep clean of the kitchen and bathrooms to reset after winter

Summer

- [ ] Dust and vacuum more often if you live on gravel, near fields or near a dry road
- [ ] Check your HVAC filter monthly during smoke and heat events
- [ ] Keep a plan for wildfire smoke: a closed-off room with the windows shut and a portable air cleaner sized for it[2]
- [ ] Wipe down outdoor furniture and doormats that collect ash or pollen
- [ ] Wash windows inside and out in the first week of September, before the rains start

Fall

- [ ] Place doormats and boot trays at every door before the first heavy rain
- [ ] Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and swept before the first fire
- [ ] Clear gutters and downspouts to keep water away from the foundation and walls
- [ ] Replace the furnace filter again
- [ ] Wash bedding and blankets before you move to heavier layers

Winter

- [ ] Mop entryway floors every few days. Wet boots carry grit that scratches floors.
- [ ] Wipe window condensation and keep indoor humidity between about 30 and 50 percent to head off mold[3]
- [ ] Move wood stove ash into a covered metal container kept outdoors on a surface that cannot burn[4]
- [ ] Dry wet coats, boots and dog towels away from walls and carpet
- [ ] Vacuum under and behind furniture, where winter dust settles

The Oregon weather behind the calendar

Nearly 90 percent of Portland's annual rain falls between mid-October and mid-May.[5] That is why entryways and floors take a beating through the wet months, and why moisture control matters indoors. In the Gorge and Mt. Hood area, a Forest Service climate summary puts 70 percent of annual precipitation between November and March, with a distinct dry season in summer.[6]

Weekly and monthly basics, all year

- Weekly: kitchen and bathrooms, floors, dusting, bed linen, trash
- Monthly: baseboards, switch plates, blinds, the microwave, fridge shelves, vents
- Quarterly: oven, window tracks, grout, mattress and upholstery vacuuming

Sources

[1] Allergy season is accelerating in the Willamette Valley, Oregon Public Broadcasting (quoting Oregon Allergy Associates). https://opb.org/article/2025/05/08/allergy-season-is-accelerating-in-the-willamette-valley

[2] Create a Clean Room to Protect Indoor Air Quality During a Wildfire, U.S. EPA. https://www.epa.gov/emergencies-iaq/create-clean-room-protect-indoor-air-quality-during-wildfire

[3] A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture and Your Home, U.S. EPA. https://www.epa.gov/mold/brief-guide-mold-moisture-and-your-home

[4] Best Wood Burning Practices, U.S. EPA (Burn Wise). https://www.epa.gov/burnwise/best-wood-burning-practices

[5] Climate of Portland, Climate Summary (NOAA/NWS Technical Memorandum NWS-WR-239, data through 2023), NOAA National Weather Service Portland. https://www.weather.gov/media/pqr/climate/ClimateBookPortland/pg1.pdf

[6] Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation in the Columbia River Gorge NSA, Mount Hood NF, and Willamette NF: Executive Summary (PNW-GTR-1001, June 2023), USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station. https://www.fs.usda.gov/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr-1001-exec-summary.pdf

Want a hand with home cleaning?

Call Jeremy at (503) 505-0174 or ask for a free quote at meadowlarkhomecleaning.com/contact. The quote is free, with no obligation.

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