Diwali Cleaning Checklist, room by room

Ten sessions, one room at a time. Tick each job as you go, and share the list so the work is shared too.

Supplies to gather on day one

- [ ] Jhadu, pocha and a bucket
- [ ] Six to eight microfibre or old cotton cloths
- [ ] An extendable duster, or a broom with an old cloth tied over it
- [ ] A sturdy step stool
- [ ] Rubber gloves and a cloth mask for dusty jobs
- [ ] Dish soap, baking soda, white vinegar and lemons
- [ ] Your usual floor cleaner and bathroom cleaner
- [ ] Old toothbrushes for grout, taps and corners
- [ ] Large bags for donations and scrap

How to use it

- Each session is one day. You do not need consecutive days: most families spread them over two or three weekends.
- Write the date you plan each session on the line next to it.

One safety rule

Never mix bleach with other cleaning products, including vinegar. If you have just used a bleach-based cleaner, rinse well before using anything else in the same room.

1 Declutter the whole house

_____

- [ ] Sort every room into keep, donate, sell, recycle and throw
- [ ] Old newspapers, empty boxes, broken appliances
- [ ] Clothes no one has worn in a year, duplicate kitchen items
- [ ] Expired medicines: ask your chemist about take-back first

2 Fans, cobwebs and high places

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- [ ] Fans off at the mains, pillow-cover trick on each blade
- [ ] Cobwebs: ceiling corners, behind doors, above windows
- [ ] Tube lights, bulbs and fittings (switched off and cool)
- [ ] Tops of almirahs, fridge and kitchen cabinets

3 Curtains and fabrics

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- [ ] Curtains: check the care label before washing
- [ ] Cushion covers, diwan covers and bedsheets, same day
- [ ] Mattresses and pillows: a few hours in direct sun

4 Bedrooms

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- [ ] Wardrobes, one shelf at a time
- [ ] Everything stored under the bed
- [ ] Side tables, switchboards and door handles
- [ ] Mirrors and dressing tables last

5 Living room

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- [ ] Sofa, under the cushions, spot-clean stains
- [ ] TV unit, showcase and decorative pieces
- [ ] Windows and grills
- [ ] Switchboards and remote controls

6 Kitchen, part 1

_____

- [ ] Empty and wipe cabinets, one at a time
- [ ] Wash and dry steel dabbas, masala shelf
- [ ] Clear expired food from the fridge

7 Kitchen, part 2

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- [ ] Degrease chimney filters and the stove
- [ ] Tiles and sink
- [ ] Kitchen floor

8 Bathrooms

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- [ ] Tiles and grout, rinse well
- [ ] Shower heads and tap aerators (vinegar soak)
- [ ] Geyser body, mirror and cabinet
- [ ] Exhaust fan (power off), clear drains

9 Puja corner

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- [ ] Empty, dust and dry-wipe the puja shelf
- [ ] Idols and frames, by material
- [ ] Brass, copper and silver items, diyas

10 Entrance, balcony, final mop

_____

- [ ] Main door, nameplate, frame and bell
- [ ] Balcony: sweep, wash, repot or trim plants
- [ ] Shoes: keep only daily pairs at the entrance
- [ ] Final mop, from the far room towards the main door

Short on time? The 3-day version

- [ ] **Day 1:** Living room and entrance, fans and high surfaces there, cushion covers.
- [ ] **Day 2:** Kitchen counters, stove and fridge, the guest bathroom.
- [ ] **Day 3:** Puja corner, main door and balcony, then mop the whole house.

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