



5

TIPS TO MAKE

Thanksgiving CLEANUP EASIER

1

Ask your guests to bring their leftover containers.



Leftovers are a given with any feast day such as Thanksgiving. If you have the custom of sending some leftovers home with your guests, request for them to bring their containers. After the meal, you can ask everyone to fill their containers so you can shuffle all of the empty, dirty serving platters into the kitchen immediately. You won't have difficulty finding room in the fridge for too many leftovers, or stress out in finding your own collection of plastic containers and their matching lids.

2

Keep paper towels and surface cleaners handy.



Make sure paper towels, a good quality surface spray, and antibacterial wipes, are readily available so you can clean messes quickly. You can get ahead of any spills, especially wine or meat drippings before they turn into stains. Let your guests and everyone in the family know where they are located so that if something gets spilled while you're busy on something else, they can handle the cleanup themselves.

3

Set up a soaking station.



Dishwashing is one of the most tedious parts of the cleanup, especially if you're hesitant to use disposable dishware. A soaking station is a good way to prevent stubborn food and dirt from sticking to dishes, big pots, and pans. To free up your main sink, fill any deep plastic tub (or even your bathtub) with warm soapy water. Stash the soaking station anywhere but the kitchen counters to free up some space.

4

Prepare trash cans and extra bags.



Depending on how big your family gathering is, you want to have a few large garbage cans ready. It might also help to label them for garbage and recycling so your guests will know where everything goes once they finish eating. Also, make sure you have plenty of extra trash bags on hand. Another trick even professional cleaners use is to double- or triple-line trash bins so you already have a clean, empty bag in place when a full bag is removed.

5

Don't be afraid to ask for help.



Lastly, cleaning up after the festivities isn't something you should tackle alone. If you have a big family, delegate tasks like dishwashing, floor cleanup, and trash duty ahead of time so everyone knows what they're responsible for when the festivities begin. Some of your guests may also be eager to help on cleanup duty, especially if they wouldn't be able to bring a dish or wine to the gathering.

Happy Thanksgiving!

We hope these tips will help simplify your cleanup so you won't be stuck with such a daunting task and have more time to enjoy Thanksgiving.