

HOW TO CLEAN VENT COVERS

At least once or twice a year for a deep clean

Removing Vent Covers

While you can wipe and vacuum your vent covers without removing them, deeper cleaning requires the cover to be removed. For floor vents this may be as simple as lifting the vent cover up. If it's in the wall or ceiling, you'll need a screwdriver to remove the screws first. Be prepared for a little falling dust when removing ceiling vent covers.

Turn off HVAC System

Turning off your heating or air conditioning isn't necessary for cleaning, but it does make it easier. It's not a pleasant experience to have air blasting on you while you try to vacuum out the vents. Many people choose to clean vent covers in the spring or fall, when the HVAC runs infrequently.

Wipe

For a quick clean all you need is a rag or sponge and some mild cleaner. If the vent covers are really dirty, you might want to consider placing some plastic beneath ceiling vents to catch falling dust and dirt. Wet your rag or sponge with the cleaner, then simply wipe away dirt. If you're cleaning a vent in the kitchen, the dirt might be a bit sticky. Use a degreaser or rubbing alcohol if that's the case. Climbing on a ladder and reaching over your head to clean ceiling vents can be dangerous so be sure to have someone nearby to steady you.

Vacuum

Another approach to cleaning vent covers is to vacuum them. This will get rid of dirt and dust buildup without the risk of spreading grime to walls and floors. It also decreases falling debris when you're cleaning ceiling vents. Some people like to combine the vacuum and the wipe methods for a comprehensive cleaning. Vacuuming gets rid of loose dust and wiping gets the rest. Be aware that vacuuming is not as effective on kitchen vents where grease might make dirt sticky. Use a degreaser or rubbing alcohol and wipe method for kitchen vents.