

Top 5 products for a spring clean



Dust away those wintry cobwebs and ready your home for warmer days with our top five spring cleaning products

1 Geoffrey Fisher table brush and pan, £45, The New Craftsmen

Best for...the tidy type who keeps it clean. This brush by Geoffrey Fisher is hand-made using wood from his local forest in High Wycombe and natural hog hair bristles.

The New Craftsmen, 34 N Row, Mayfair, London W1K 6DG thenewcraftsmen.com

2 Ostrich feather duster by Bürstenhaus Redecker, £21, SCP

Best for...hard to reach areas. This ostrich feather duster has a varnished wood handle and is handcrafted by Bürstenhaus Redecker, a traditional German brush manufacturer. It comes in two sizes.

SCP, 135-139 Curtain Rd, London EC2A 3BX scp.co.uk

3 True Grace Seashore room diffuser, £36, Aria

Best for...a breath of fresh air. Seashore smells like mossy cliffs, a light breeze blowing at your hair and the salty geranium and

neoli-infused scent of the sea, the perfect aroma to wash away the chill of winter and welcome in the spring sunshine.

Aria, Barnsbury Hall, 2B Barnsbury St, London N1 1PN ariashop.co.uk

4 Guinea Pig & Peach Pineapple tea towel, £13.75, Smug

Best for...a playful kitchen. Thornback and Peel's tea towels are exclusively designed for Smug and are screened by hand and printed on white cotton with fun patterns featuring Duck Egg Guineas and Peach Pineapples.

Smug, 13 Camden Passage, London N1 8EA ifeelsmug.com

5 Spring cleaning kit, £45, Labour and Wait

Best for...a one size fits all solution. Consisting of Labour and Wait's Housekeeper's Bucket, scrubbing brush, floor cloth, duster and Marseilles soap, this kit includes everything you need to ready your home for spring.

Labour and Wait, 85 Redchurch St, London E2 7DJ Labourandwait.co.uk

On the coffee table

The Scandinavian home: interiors inspired by light

Niki Brantmark, £19.99, Cico Books

As winter transitions into spring, the Scandinavian concept of hygge, you might think, would become redundant. Hardly, since Scandinavian style is harboured on the sense of light and space. In this work by Niki Brantmark, the blogger explores the lifestyle reflected in northern European homes, from minimalist designs to bohemian concepts. Designs are varied according to location in chapters from Urban Living to Rural Retreats and Country Homes which reflect the varied pace of life in their aesthetic designs. This book demonstrates how to draw inspiration from pared-back northern designs to create an interior which is as much an escape as it is a functional home.

At home with plants

Ian Drummond & Kara O'Reilly, £20, Mitchell Beazley

Unusual plants are all the rage at the moment, and with creative interior planting being something not many of us know about, this book will reveal all about the art of interior decorating using plants. Think bringing the outside inside with hanging baskets, herb pots and window-sill dressing. The book includes how-to tips on where to place your plants, practical care advice and inspiration to transform the look of your home. Ian Drummond is a local Camden resident

and creative director of a leading interior landscape company, exhibiting many a time at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

How to read London: a crash course in London architecture

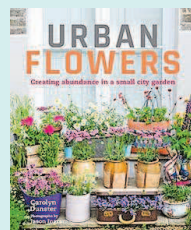
Chris Rogers, £9.99, Ivy Press

If you walk through London and wish you knew more about its architecture, this work is for you. Chris Rogers reveals the evolution of the cityscape by guiding you through the domestic, civic and commercial architecture of the built environment, and provides a history lesson along the way. Beginning 2000 years in the past, the book takes us on a tour through the enterprising building developments of the city, from Classical townhouses to mediaeval homes, Victorian crescents and Tudor enclaves. This book is the coffee-table guide to knowing our city.

Urban flowers: creating abundance in a small city garden

Carolyn Dunster, £20, Frances Lincoln

North London resident Carolyn Dunster trained with Jane Packer and now operates her floristry, Simply Roses in Holloway. Having won the People's Choice Award at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show for her small cutting garden, Dunster is a mastermind in colourful garden designs for small, urban spaces. This book guides you through the art of what to grow, when to grow it and how to create local, seasonal blooms and berries.



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