Phase 1: Two Weeks Before Thanksgiving

This is the perfect time for a deep clean and inspection of less-used areas.

The Pantry Purge & Protect

- [ ] Empty pantry shelves completely.
- [ ] Inspect all old or open packages of flour, sugar, grains, mixes, and spices for any signs of pests (webs, clumps, larvae). Discard anything suspicious.
- [ ] Vacuum shelves, paying close attention to corners and edges.
- [ ] Wipe all shelves clean with warm, soapy water.
- [ ] **Pro Tip:** After your big holiday grocery trip, transfer all new baking supplies into airtight glass or hard plastic containers.

The Guest Room Refresh

- [ ] Strip the guest bed and wash all linens (including mattress pads and comforters) in hot water.
- [ ] Vacuum the entire room thoroughly, using a crevice tool along baseboards and behind furniture.
- [ ] Wipe down window sills and inspect for spiders or other insects.
- [ ] Check that window screens are secure and have no tears.

The Decoration De-Bug

- [ ] Bring any stored decorations (wreaths, centerpieces, etc.) out of the attic or basement.
- [ ] Unpack and inspect all decorations *outside or in the garage* before bringing them into your main living areas.
- [ ] Carefully check any natural items (like dried wreaths or cornucopias) for spider webs, egg sacs, or insects.

Phase 2: The Week of Thanksgiving

Focus on the high-traffic areas as you begin your cooking and final preparations.

The Kitchen Lockdown

- [ ] Wipe up any spills or crumbs immediately while cooking and baking.
- [ ] Take out the kitchen trash every night, especially after preparing food.
- [ ] Do not leave dirty dishes in the sink overnight.
- [ ] Do a quick check under the kitchen sink to ensure there are no new leaks from the increased usage.
- [ ] Store any leftover ingredients in airtight containers.

Final Exterior Check

- [ ] Ensure all trash and recycling bins outside have tight-fitting lids.
- [ ] Move any firewood piles at least 20 feet away from the house.
- [ ] Sweep leaves and debris away from the foundation and window wells.

Phase 3: The Day Before Thanksgiving

The Final Peace of Mind Perimeter

- [ ] Do one last visual inspection of the kitchen, dining room, and guest areas.
- [ ] **Optional but Recommended:** Consider a professional exterior pest treatment as the ultimate final step to prevent any last-minute invaders from crashing the party.
- [ ] Relax, knowing your home is clean, safe, and ready for a wonderful holiday!