



EVERY NOOK, CRANNY AND SUIT OF ARMOUR

Top tips for spring cleaning from Warwick Castle's expert Val Goodman



14 April 2020: Dusting. Hoovering. Polishing. All familiar household chores dreaded by many but now could be the perfect time to declutter, organise and clean your home while we stay home to save lives.

While most of us only ever have to tackle our own more modest houses, spare a thought for the team at Warwick Castle who have more than 6,500m² across 25 rooms to clean throughout the 1,100 year-old Castle, from the State Rooms and Tower Suites to the grand Great Hall of the Castle.

This year, the big clean is on hold but Warwick Castle's expert Val Goldman who supervises the conservation teams has some top tips to make spring cleaning your home that bit more enjoyable...

1. **Podcasts & Music:** Take this time to play that podcast you've been meaning to listen to or put on your favourite album
2. **Split rooms between days:** Take the time to do each room properly and thoroughly, instead of rushing through in a fast frenzy
3. **Make it fun with friends and family:** Make the most of video chat apps such as Zoom, Google Hangouts or House Party to include your friends in your clearout. Their

opinions will help you make quicker decisions on whether to keep or throw something. You could set up a family challenge, to see who can clean their room the fastest, or share your funniest moments on social media (strangest thing found down the back of the sofa anyone?).

4. **Use natural products:** Just because you're undertaking a task doesn't mean you need to rush to the shops to buy products. Most people will have white vinegar and lemons in their cupboards and these are perfect for cleaning furniture and windows naturally.
5. **Create rewards for yourself:** Everytime you clean, tidy or throw something away, make a note and reward yourself at the end of the day. This could be with a glass of wine or a chocolate biscuit... knowing there's a treat at the end will make you work more efficiently!

The annual deep clean usually takes the Conservation team 240 hours over six to eight weeks, meticulously moving through each room of the main Castle. On average, each room takes the team two days to complete, and involves a careful process of vacuuming tapestries and furniture, wiping down and waxing woodwork, and gentle handling of the displays of medieval weaponry and history of the Castle.

Val Goldman, Conservation Supervisor at Warwick Castle: "While the Castle is cleaned on a regular basis, every year we give the entire Castle a deep spring clean and spend time going over every corner, cubby hole and crossbow. It is a huge undertaking but helps keep the intricate tapestries, woodwork and of course splendid suits of armour looking their best for everyone to enjoy".



For more information or to book your visit, head to www.warwick-castle.com.

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Note to editors

Images available: <http://bit.ly/WCspringclean>

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Warwick Castle

Warwick Castle is currently closed to visitors. Full details can be found at: <https://www.warwick-castle.com/about/coronavirus/>

Warwick Castle is easily accessible from Junction 15 of the M40, just 40 minutes from Birmingham and 1 hour 40 minutes from London. Warwick Castle is easy to reach by train from London Marylebone in only 86 minutes. The Castle, set in 64 acres of grounds designed by Capability Brown, rests on the banks of the River Avon at the heart of historic Warwick.

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