

February 2024

Home and Yard Prep for Spring



Prep Your Home

Check your gutters. Clogged gutters can cause damage to your home when water doesn't flow away from the foundation. Remove leaves and twigs. Use a hose to flush out the gutters after you're done cleaning. With the hose running, you'll also find any leaks that need to be repaired.

Replace Old Filters. Filters are never the first thought on anyone's mind but they do still need to be replaced. Generally, you should replace them twice a year or more, depending on the type of filters you use. Check and replace the refrigerator water filter, range hood filter, and charcoal filter on the bottom of the microwave.

Clean Out the Dryer Vent. One of the unseen dangers in a home is a clogged dryer vent. It seems innocuous but it can quickly cause a fire if you're not careful. The process to clean it is simple, luckily. Also, check the flapper at the roof vent, if accessible. Sometimes lint build-up can cause partial blockages.

Check the Smoke Alarms. Smoke alarms can only help protect you and your family if they are in full working order. To get ready for Spring, check the batteries in all of the smoke alarms and CO detectors in your home. It won't take you very long but you'll be glad you did if a worst-case scenario ever happens.

Declutter the Garage, Attic, or Basement. These are spaces in the house that we're all guilty of setting random items down and forgetting. If you're not careful, those items can quickly turn into entirely overwhelming heaps of clutter. Stay on top of things by decluttering these spaces as needed before Spring. You'll feel better once the job is done.

Clean Your Home's Exterior. Use a pressure washer loaded with detergent to remove caked-on dirt and grime from the exterior. Clean with slow movements of the wand. Let the washer's cleaning solution work into the area for a few minutes before you rinse with a water-only stream from the washer, or water from a garden hose. Always start with a lower pressure when unsure of the effects it may have on the surface.

Don't forget to clean your windows. Spray each windowpane with water from a garden hose and then clean it using window glass cleaner. You can also dilute dish washing soap in a bucket with water. Rinse the windows to remove debris from cleaning.

Wash Your Window Screens. A rag or sponge and some soapy water should remove any dust or buildup so you have perfectly clean, clear window screens for spring.

Prepare Your Patio. Check your patio or deck for wear and damage. Make any necessary repairs.

Bring patio furniture out of storage and check it for wear or damage. Wipe down each piece with damp cloths and dry. Use patio furniture cleaner or dish soap, water and a scrub brush for tougher dirt and stains. Wipe down cushions and pillows.

Set up your grill, dust it off and give it a good, once-over inspection. Remove grates and scrub them with a wire brush to remove burnt-on particles and debris. You can also use a spray-on grill cleaner. Clean the inside and outside of the grill thoroughly with hot, soapy water. Rinse with a garden hose and let dry.

Sources: truevalue.com/diy-projects/post/patio-and-garden/prepare-your-house-and-yard-for-spring, campbellhomes.com/blog/10-tips-to-get-your-home-ready-for-spring/

Prep Your Yard

Clear debris from lawn and landscape. Clean up anything you missed in the Fall. Remove sticks that have fallen over the Winter. Raking up leaves and build up of thatch will allow your grass to breathe.

Prune shrubs and clean landscape beds. If you didn't get your perennials trimmed back in the Fall, remove old growth now. Early spring is also a good time to trim shrubs before the active growing season.

Apply fertilizer and pre-emergent herbicide. Spring is the time to fertilize your lawn and many shrubs. Fertilizers with pre-emergent will help prevent weeds from sprouting. Don't apply too early.

Don't seed just yet. If you are applying weed pre-emergent you cannot put down grass seed in the same area. The pre-emergent will also prevent the grass seed from growing. If you have areas where you'd like to reseed, it's best to wait until a little later in the season.

Wait to aerate. Although aerating can be done anytime, some people do not recommend doing it in the Spring. It opens up the soil for weed seedlings that are prevalent this time of year. A better choice is to aerate in the Summer or Fall. This tip has alternating opinions - some experts say to aerate in the Spring to allow new grass the same opportunity to grow.

Mow early, mow often. One of the big mistakes homeowners make is only mowing once a week in the spring. Letting the grass grow too high and then cut it stunts the roots so they can't reproduce properly. Instead, mow every five days for the first six weeks of spring, depending on the weather, to ensure a thicker, fuller lawn.

Pick a good, heavy mulch. Edge out your beds, trim back dead branches on shrubs and replace the mulch.

Trim the trees. If dead branches are left untended, they can fall, causing property damage and potential injury. Consider hiring a tree trimmer to do a "safety prune" once every three years — ideally before the leaves come out, when it's easier to see the condition of the branches.

Sources: fm2enterprises.com/advice/how-to-prepare-your-lawn-for-spring, searchhomeservices.com/blog/how-to-prepare-your-lawn-and-garden-for-spring-in-6-simple-steps

Daylight Saving Time - March 10, 2024



Mar 10, 2024 - Daylight Saving Time Starts

Sunday, March 10, 2024, **2:00 am** clocks are turned **forward** 1 hour to Sunday, March 10, 2024, **3:00 am** local daylight time instead. Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour later on Mar 10, 2024 than the day before. There will be more light in the evening.

Areas that do NOT change their clocks: Hawaii, most of Arizona, and the US dependencies American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Marina Islands, the US Minor Outlying Islands, and the US Virgin Islands.

Also called Spring Forward, Summer Time, and Daylight Savings Time.

Source: [timeanddate .com/time/change/usa](https://timeanddate.com/time/change/usa), [timeanddate .com/news/time/usa-start-dst-2024.html](https://timeanddate.com/news/time/usa-start-dst-2024.html)

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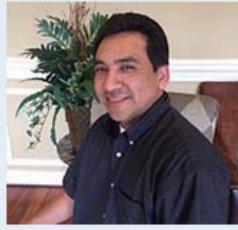
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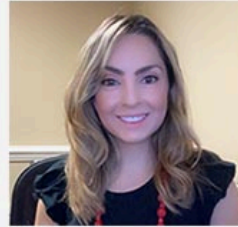
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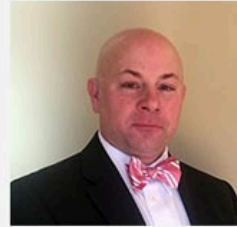
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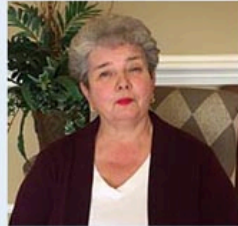
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