

March 2023

Spring - Time to Air Out and Clean Up



It's time to get out and start prepping for warmer temperatures and longer days. Spring - signaler of cleaning out, airing out and making seasonal checks and repairs.

To Do - Inside

Clutter - We've all heard of "Spring cleaning" - so, get to it. All the clutter you've collected over the Winter, time to store it, donate it, give it, or trash it. How about a yard sale?

HVAC - Remember to have your annual cooling system maintenance done. Those units sit out in the weather all year collecting flying debris and animal "leave behinds". You'll appreciate a well running unit in a couple of months!

Windows - Time to wash and let the light in! You'll be amazed how dirty windows can get. This is also a great time to clean the trim and blinds, and wash curtains.

Ceiling Fans - Not quite time to turn them in April, but you can clean them. This is especially important for anyone with allergies.

Rugs, Curtains, Bedding, etc - Remember to wash those "occasional" things - rugs, bed spreads/comforters, curtains, those things you don't launder regularly still need to be cleaned occasionally.

Vents - Remember those dryer vents. And if you haven't in a couple of years, get the air ducts and vents cleaned out.

Garage - You've decluttered your living areas, now tackle the garage! Get rid of old junk, broken tools or equipment, and any other stuff you've stored through Winter. Maybe invest in a wall hanging storage system.

Termites - While you're cleaning out, move things from the walls and check for damage.

Weatherstripping - If your stripping looks worn, or if you can't remember when you replaced it last, now's the time.

Wall Cracks - Look up. Are there any new cracks in the walls? Are any windows hard to open? You're looking for things that note foundation damage or "settling".

To Do - Outside

Mosquitoes - Warmer temps bring the mosquitoes out. Check for standing water and dump it. Also, think of things that will collect and hold water.

Yard - Walk your yard and look for any low spots or drainage damage from Winter weather. Those spots should be repaired to prevent further damage.

Grass and Flower Beds - It's about time to fertilize and weed kill. Also, it's time to clean out those flower beds. You may already have perennials coming up. Or prep them for new plants.

Lawn Equipment - Grass! We all dread mowing. But it has to be done. So get that lawn mower out. Clean it off and tune it up. Time to change the oil, sharpen the blades, check any cables, and make sure the mower deck isn't damaged. You may want to take it to a professional for annual maintenance.

Foundation - While you're walking the yard, look at the foundation of your home. Is there standing water or drainage damage? Make sure water/rain is running away from your foundation.

Roof, Eaves - Look up as you walk around your home again. You're looking for roof damage, checking any siding or trim, including eaves or vents. Also look for anything painted that needs an update.

Sidewalks, Driveways, Pathways - Check for cracks, or missing chunks. If your pathways are natural, check for dips or holes that will hold water. Time repair and/or fill in.

Decks and Fences - Look at the other structures around your home. How's that wooden deck holding up? Are there any holes in your fence. Now's the time to get them fixed.

Outdoor Furniture and Grill - Time to wash the Winter away. If they've been out in the weather all Winter, they may need a pressure wash and paint. If you've had them stored, get them out and wash or wipe them down to get rid of spider webs and insects.

Clutter - Have you collected things over the Winter? Downed limbs, old flower pots, etc. Time to get out and reclaim your outdoor spaces.

Front Door - Stand back and look at the front of your home - especially the door and stoop or porch. Do you need to paint? Is any furniture damaged? Maybe have a friend tell you what they see.

Windows - Time to wash and let the light in! You'll be amazed how dirty windows can get. Check the framing - do you need paint or caulk, are the shutters still good?

Screen Doors, Window Screen - We all know pollen sticks to everything! Look closely, is there pollen or cobwebs or old debris stuck to your screens?

Siding and Trim - While you're washing windows and screens, go ahead and get any siding or trim cleaned. Knock it all out at once and be done.

Gutters and Downspouts - We all hate cleaning out gutters! But again, while you're doing the other stuff, get those done as well. Also, make sure your downspouts are free of debris and not blocked by landscaping or mulch.

Termites and Ants - Both of these insects are coming out about now. Check for termite "tubes" against your walls and in crawlspaces. Also, keep an eye out for ant hills.

Sources: houzz.com/magazine/to-dos-your-april-home-checklist-stsetivw-vs~61422496, safewise.com/blog/april-safety-checklist/, realtor.com/advice/home-improvement/home-maintenance-tasks-checklist-april/

National Play Outside Day



If it's the first Saturday of the month, it's National Play Outside Day. So, no matter what month it is, everyone put down their electronic devices and get outside!

#PlayOutsideDay

All year long, we are given numerous opportunities to get outside and play. But sometimes, life, responsibilities, and distractions keep us from spending time in the fresh air as we should. National Play Outside Day is a reminder to stretch our legs and expend some energy in the great outdoors.

Benefits of Outdoor Play

Why is playing outside so good for us? Besides getting us off the sofa or away from the desk, it also gives us an opportunity to explore our neighborhoods. While it's impossible to list all the benefits of outdoor play, we do have a few to share.

Source: <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-play-outside-day-first-saturday-of-every-month/>

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