

Quick Checklist: Spring Cleaning: Six Things To Do When The Weather Heats Up

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After a long winter of snow and ice, the first warm day can bring a flurry of excitement. With the sun shining and the buds on the trees, it is time to get ready for spring. Before you start dreaming of days outside, pack away winter and welcome spring the proper way.

- **Open the Windows**

Before it gets too hot outside, throw open your windows and let the breeze in. Say goodbye to winter stuffiness and trapped pollutants. Make sure that your windows have screens to keep dust and insects out.

- **Clean Out the Hall Closet**

All of us have that place in our home that is crowded with outerwear to help us survive the cold. Go through and carefully evaluate each item to make sure it is still being used. If you don't use it, donate it. If you do use it, wash it and store it away. Replace your winter gear with rain coats and umbrellas.

- **Plant Fresh Flowers**

Take a drive to your local nursery to choose some fresh flowers for your home. Pick between tulips for your front walk or a hanging basket of petunias for your balcony. Each day as you look at your flowers you will be reminded of the new opportunities spring brings you.

- **Repair Air Conditioner**

Most homeowners know the importance of a working air conditioner is during the summer. Don't wait until it's miserable outside to find out your air conditioner doesn't work. Chances are, others also waited and you might be stuck in a long queue awaiting a serviceman to help you.

- **Clean Out the Garage**

The kids are not going to be using the sleds for a while so replace them with badminton, lawn darts, and corn hole. Now is also a good time to check your inventory for any outdoor favorites such as bubbles or chalk that might be low. Give the floor a good sweeping before the mud comes. Take a bike ride around the neighborhood to get some exercise when you finish.

- **Have a BBQ**

Fire up the grill and invite some friends over. Cook up some hot dogs and bring out the s'mores when the sun sets. Have a variety of drinks available to keep the kids and adults hydrated and happy.

Make spring a fun time for your family. Involve the kids and make a game of watching for different birds as you work. It's a good time to get rid of the old items you don't use, and refresh your home.