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Spring checklist for home and lawn care

Whether you're considering the resale value of your home or are simply resigned to doing maintenance projects to keep your house in good condition, your lawn and garden could certainly benefit from some TLC of the home- and lawn-improvement variety this spring.

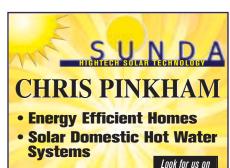
The exterior of your house commands most first impressions, and even mild winters inflict seasonal damage. If you don't know where to start, a home-improvement project checklist may help. Consider the following lawn- and garden-maintenance tips from home and garden experts at HGTV and MarthaStewart.com:

- Remove piles of dead leaves from the lawn. Not only will your grass grow greener, a clean lawn helps maximize fertilizers and pesticides. Don't make the mistake of fertilizing your grass too early though. April is the general benchmark; any sooner might result in yellow spots and dried-out patches of grass.
- Check gutters for leaks and debris. Loose gutters cause improper drainage, so water can collect in basements and crawl spaces. Downspouts should point away from the foundation of the house and must be clear of all debris.
- **Start a roof fund.** It's a good rule of thumb to check your roof for rotted, buckled, loose or missing shingles after winter because summer sun will only worsen the damage. Since roof maintenance is so expensive, it's also smart to start a fund before you need it.
 - Remove piles of wood or debris



stacked near the home. Firewood should be kept far away from the foundation, and stacked 18 inches off the ground. These preventative measures help keep insect pests from exploring your home.

- **Don't strain yourself, and stay hydrated.** This might be the first time
 you've done any heavy lifting or spent hours
 in the sun for months. Remember to drink
 plenty of fluids, take breaks and stretch your
 muscles. If you suffer from backaches and
 muscle strains, keep some relief like Absorbine Jr. (www.absorbinejr.com) on hand. Its
 herbal ingredients and uncanny ability to
 ease muscle and back pain make it a musthave for yard work.
- Call a professional to clean your AC unit. Heating and cooling experts recommend an annual servicing since clean coils work more efficiently. When the summer's blazing heat drives you indoors, your family will appreciate having an AC operating at peak levels. (NewsUSA)



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Tips to breeze through spring cleaning

Spring heralds a season of fresh starts and growth -- and what better way to start anew than with a little spring cleaning?

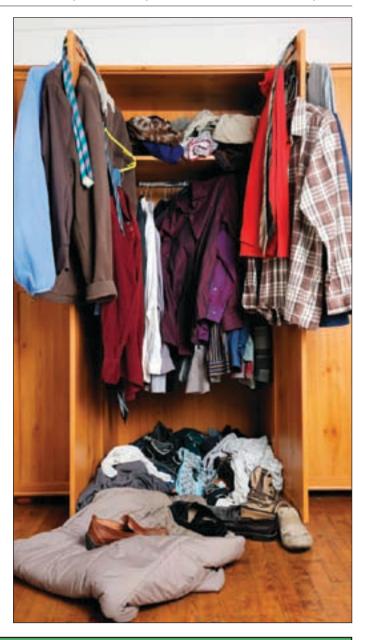
Taking the time to get organized can make all the difference -- and it can make the most cluttered closets and dirtiest corners a breeze to clean. With the right tools in hand, organizing any messy space becomes a mangeable task.

You can save time and money by getting cleaning supplies, like dusters, sponges and automated air fresheners, at places like Dollar General. Still don't know where to start? Try these spring-cleaning tips:

Cover the basics. Take inventory of your cleaning supplies. Some must-haves are mops, brooms, sponges, paper towels, trash bags, disinfectant wipes and bathroom-specific supplies.

Make a list of what you need so you can get it all in one shopping trip. Many basic and speciality cleaning products are now available online. For the ultimate in convenience, shop online at www.dollargeneral.com.

- **Tackle the clutter in steps.** Spring cleaning can be daunting, so take small steps and approach spaces one at a time. Strive to find everything a permanent home. Create "donate" and "trash" piles for items you no longer use or need.
- **Use organizing tools.** Over-the-door mesh shoe racks are great for storing all kinds of winter accessories -- hats, gloves, scarves and coats. Get some sturdy hooks for purses, backpacks and other accessories, and relish the feeling of a clean closet.
- **Revitalize your laundry room.** Put a stop to the mountain of dirty clothes that grows every week by getting each family member a laundry basket. If clothing doesn't make it into their bin, it's not getting washed. Keep your laundry room stocked with detergent, bleach and stain remover.
- **Store items in plastic storage containers.** Some winter items will be used until the early days of summer, others won't make an appearance until next year. A variety of belongings can be stored in plastic containers to keep them organized and out of the way. (NewsUSA)



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Budget-friendly kitchen redos with wallpaper

A kitchen renovation is almost always a costly and time-consuming undertaking. The thought of ripping out and replacing cabinets, countertops and appliances is enough to stop you in your tracks. But a kitchen redo doesn't have to be an all-or-nothing proposition. Sometimes, the smallest changes can make the biggest difference. Take wallpaper, for example.

Nothing enlivens an outdated kitchen more quickly or more easily than wallpaper. A bright, happy pattern like a toss of fruits or vegetables can play on the past with kitschy, retro-inspired style. Or you can modernize with patterns that mimic tile, stone and metal: a budget-friendly alternative to the real, more costly materials for backsplashes. You don't have to worry about most stains because most wallpaper has a protective coating and is washable, even scrubbable. In fact, kitchen-friendly wallpapers are much lower



maintenance than paint, which has about a three-year life span.

Wallpaper isn't just for kitchen walls. Here are some ideas that can modernize any kitchen in an instant:

- With extra wallpaper or coordinating border, cover lamp shades on hanging fixtures to create a chic, pulled-together look.
- Wallpaper inset panels on cabinets and pantry doors.
- Paper the back of glass cabinets or open shelves and turn the display of everyday

china into a work of art.

- Tap into your creativity: layer wallpaper with a coordinating border and removable wall decals. Or, if there's a hard-to-reach angle where wallpaper won't work, use a complementary wall decal to pull the look together.
- If the seating in your kitchen faces one wall, create an art installation by placing individual peel-and-stick wall decals in store-bought frames in a pattern on the wall.

To find additional information on wallpaper, visit www.yorkwall.com. (NewsUSA)

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Daring creativity blooms in this season's floral decor

"Flowers are always fashionable, stylish and on-trend," says Dani Nichols, a trend-watcher for home decor website MuralsYourWay.com. Nichols points to hot trends in floral decor this spring and summer:

Floral walls

"Flowers have always inspired paint makers to create colors that pay homage to both the boldness and the delicacy of floral inspirations," Nichols says. This year, paint manufacturers are offering a diverse palette of floral-inspired colors, from dusty roses and iris blues, buttercup yellow and daisy white, to frothy lilac and popping peony.

Floral wallpaper and floral murals are also great ways to incorporate flowers into a room's decor. A subtle pattern of small, delicate flowers can create a gentle, peaceful feeling in a room. Or, go bold with an accent mural that depicts a single, showy bloom. You can find a plethora of floral options online at websites like MuralsYourWay.com.



Sustainability

One of the most enjoyable ways to decorate with florals - cut flowers - is also one of the most fleeting. Few beautiful things are as short-lived as cut flowers. This season, look for cut flower designs to trend toward sustainability, as everyone looks for ways to get more enjoyment from their flowers for longer.

Daring pairings

When you think of floral design, you probably envision bright, rich hues paired with

background neutrals. This year, however, florals are going daring, mixing in metallic accents, and deep, saturated purples and blues that almost appear black. And while bright or light colors are as intrinsic to floral decor as the background greenery, dark blooms impart an almost mystical aura, whether the hue is natural or dyed.

You'll see these daring pairings pop up everywhere from throw pillows to centerpieces, this year. (ARA)



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Top home decor trends for 2012

From warm woods and creative colors to memorable murals and tailored textures, interior designers and industry experts predict 2012 will offer a multitude of options for those interested in giving their homes a fresh look. Even better for today's cost-conscious consumers is that many of the trends are easy and inexpensive.

The facts about furniture

Upholstered furniture coverings are being driven more by texture and less by prints. Yesterday's bulky, stationary pit sofa will be replaced by lower backs and seats along with smaller "footprint" pieces clustered into conversation groups for more flexibility and ease of interaction.

The right touch

Next year's textures and fabrics will include iridescent metallic woven within fabric; strong patterns and bold prints; modern floral; tailored woven fabrics like tweed, herringbone, plaid and houndstooth; velvet/velour,



sumptuous dupioni silk, and faux fur.

A splash of color

Start with neutral hues of taupe, beige, cream, grey, black and white, and then add unexpected pops of color with bold accessories from bright yellow paintings to royal blue vases.

Echo this vibrant color spectrum, with rich jewel tones like emerald, amethyst, sapphire, ruby, garnet and citrine along with deep teal, fuchsia, honeysuckle, coffee and gold.

Light up your life

Lighting options will include linen shades with clean tailored lines and a play toward texture. Lamp bodies will be made of carved reclaimed woods deftly finished in soft,neutral tones that showcase the natural wood grain.

Please tread on me

There is a renewed interest in woven or knotted textures on rugs with "back to basics" motifs that harken back to simpler times. These rugs are easy and cheerful to live with, make a design statement, and serve as interesting foundations for rooms with upholstered or casework furnishings most often seen in neutral colors. Lowell also sees a trend toward investment area rugs on tiled floors or those resurfaced with wood or faux wood veneers for better wear and tear and a greater perceived home value.

Decorating on a dime

According to artist/designer/author Pablo Solomon, people will continue to look for unique, cost-effective ways to improve their homes. They'll buy and restore secondhand furniture, swap artwork and accessories with friends, and use yard sale proceeds to purchase new items for their homes. Consignment stores and estate sales will be hot in 2012, with people discovering the benefits of buying older, distressed pieces that are well made and affordable. Chairs and sofas that can be reupholstered or slipcovered, and cabinets for storage, will be sought for their quality as well as the aesthetic interest they add to modern rooms. (ARA)



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Fix it

Spring home improvements that pay off big

It's beautiful outside and the last thing you want to do is spend all of your spare time working on your home when you could be playing or spending time with loved ones.

So what home improvement projects offer the biggest bang for your buck, saving you both time and money down the road?

As a homeowner, it's difficult resisting the temptation of a new kitchen or bathroom. But rule No. 1 in the manual of Homeownership 101 clearly states: Invest first in the structure of your home.

"The reason is simple," says John Gardner of APEX Siding System, a company that makes low-maintenance, high-curb appeal fiberglass siding. "Taking care of your home will prevent major, unexpected repairs and will pay dividends over time."

The second rule of thumb of home improvements is to invest in curb appeal. Whether you are selling, renting or staying



for the long haul, it pays to add charm and distinction on the exterior. The exterior of a home is the basis for the first buying decision; this is why investments in curb appeal typically provide a higher payback than other home improvements.

Finally, more and more homeowners want homes that are easier to maintain. If you want to spend more time enjoying life and less time working on your home, invest in products such as pultruded fiberglass siding and windows that are nearly maintenance free and can dramatically reduce the time you spend cleaning or maintaining your home.

Based on these three critical rules of homeownership, here's a list of the top five spring home improvements with big pay offs:

1. Replace gutters. Replacing old gutters is an easy way to spruce up a home and

reduce the chance of water draining into your basement

- **2. Update your siding.** New siding can instantly give the appearance of a total home makeover, while also reducing your maintenance costs by choosing fiberglass products, such as APEX siding and trim. Removing old siding also provides the opportunity to inspect your home for any moisture or critter damage that if left unchecked can lead to significant and costly damage to the structure of your home.
- **3. Repair the roof.** Severe weather over the years can take its toll on your roof. Inspect your roof for loose, damaged or missing shingles, especially around chimneys and vents, where water can leak into your home.
- **4. Install energy efficient windows.** Replace old, out-of-date windows with new energy-efficient, Integrity windows made with Ultrex, a fiberglass product.
- **5. Re-seal your driveway.** Look for cracks and movement in your concrete and asphalt driveway. Fill cracks with a crack filler or sealer to prevent water from getting underneath your driveway. Re-seal your driveway to give it a fresh, new look.

For more information about creating lasting beauty for your home's exterior, visit apexsidingsystem.com. (ARA)

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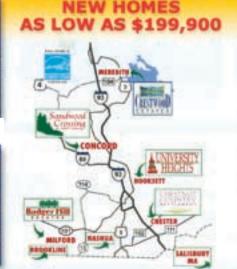
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MI. Saabses45



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ADORABLE STARTER OR RETIREMENT HOME - All ready for you to enjoy, this ranch style home in a great location has a new roof, siding, furnace, sliders, septic and leach fields, and is just minutes to Goffstown. \$179,900 MLS#4046667 472-4400



THIS HOME TO BE BUILT, SO MAKE IT YOUR OWN! - Once you preview the model to see the builders workmanship you'll understand why this home to be built on a 2 acre lot could be perfect for you, 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, 2 car garage and optional geothermal! \$296,500 MLS#4040755 472-4400



MULTI-FAMILY INVESTMENT - This outstanding property presents unlimited possibilities to the wise investor! Large 1870 farmhouse with one 3-bdrm and one 2-bdrm apartment. The barn serves as the garage and the area to the rear of the property is included. \$299,900 MLS#4105714 889-1875



SO MUCH IN THIS GRACIOUS HOME - Amherst Colonial with 3 car garage, Ig. country kitchen w/access to deck, 1st flr. master suite or in-law/teenage apt. w/separate entrance. 4BR, 4BA, LL playrm, large fam. rm w/custom built-ins, gas FP, newer roof & septic. \$375,000 MLS#4114665 673-1775



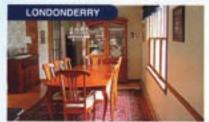
Ginnie McCauley Senior Loan Officer

Cell: 603.548.8950 Efax: 603.386.6239 ginniemac@comcast.net

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TINKHAM REALTY, INC. 603.432.7769 RTE, 102, LONDONDERRY, NH 03053 - RESIDENTIAL DIVISION







HISTORIC FARMHOUSE - Excellent opportunity for large or extended family, in-law potential. Great horse property/gentlemens farm on 2.37 acres with fruit trees and garden area. 13 rooms, 7 bedrooms, Carriage House, large post and beam barn with paddock, screen house, in-ground pool, 3 car garage, numerous updates. Great location to major points of interest moutains, seacoast, Boston. Minutes to 93. (Formerly Breezy Hill Bed and Breakfast) \$499,900







VACATION YEAR ROUND (LAKES REGION) - Nothing to do but move in! 10 minutes from Lake Winnipesaukee you'll find the perfect home in a well maintained 3 Bdrm cape in Locke Lake Colony, front to back liv. rm, spacious flr plan. H/W & laminate flrs., Ig. bdrms, 2 full baths. Well landscaped, deck. Never be without power as this home is wired and equipped with a generator. Access to two lakes incl. multiple docks, 8 sandy beaches, 2 pools, play areas, tennis, and a golf course. Miles of access to Snowmobile trails. 40 min. to Gunstock Resort. \$169,900



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY - 7 buildings ranging in size from 2 units to as many as 15 units in a building. Total of 50 units. 9-10% CAP rate. \$2,500,000



OFFICE LEASE - 1280 s/f, 6 room office with reception/ waiting, kitchenette and file room. Private BA, private entrance. Superb location off 102 at I-93, exit 4. \$1690/mo



SOUTH LONDONDERRY LOCATION! - Private lot in established sub-division with five bedrooms, septic and well already on it, as well as a paved drive. \$125,000



MEDICAL CENTER/WALK-IN CLINIC - 12,040 s/f of space available, former Family Med Ctr, Drs practice, & Physical Therapy Ctr. Can be leased separate. \$7psf



SPACIOUS PARK LOT!! - Nice area for this 2 bdrm mobile home. Peaked roof, 3-season sunroom, handicap ramp, farmers porch and pets okay. \$44,900



MIXED USE - RES/IND - 912s/f 2 bdrm home & 1000s/f wood frame warehouse, 3+ ac. ind. parcel. Uses: light ind. self storage, warehouse, & more. \$375,000



GREAT STARTER OR RETIREMENT HOME - Open concept ranch, vaulted ceilings, family rm with hearth for wood stove, full basement. Lovely 1.1 acre lot. \$199,900



MUST SEE! BEAUTIFUL TOWN HOUSE - fresh paint, hardwood firs, new carpet, updated baths. Loft for added bdrm or office. 1 car garage, central ac. \$1375/mo.



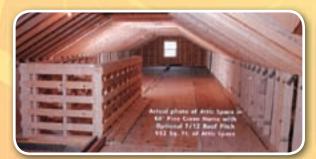
CONVENIENT COUNTRY SETTING - 2nd level, private entrance, living rm w/combo din. & kitch, large deck overlooking rear yard, master bdrm with 2 closets. **\$750/mo.**

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Plan #1896 - 3 bedrooms - 2 bathrooms - 1640 square feet:



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Step-down, sunken family room & kitchen



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