



# Get Your Home Ready for Summer

Spring into action and complete maintenance work this spring, so come summer, you can sit back, relax and enjoy a hot dog on the grill at your perfect barbecue. Use this checklist to give your home a smooth transition with the change in seasons.

- Wash your home's exterior**  
Depending on the siding you have, power-washing can potentially do harm. In most cases, a garden hose and a cleaning wand attachment is all you need. Remember to tarp your plants and shrubs!
- Clean your deck or patio**  
After cleaning a wooden deck, remember to treat the wood, stain and seal it once everything is dry. Most patio furniture can be freshened up with an all-purpose cleaner. On furniture cushions, you can use soap, water and a soft bristle brush.
- Tend the garden**  
Lay down mulch to protect your plants from a drought, boost their growth and give a finished look to your yard.
- Air out your home's interior**  
Open all the windows and run the air conditioning on low to rid your home of any winter mustiness.
- Swap out wintery decor**  
Swap out your dark linens for a lighter look. Make the inside of your home look and feel like it's ready for summer!
- Add a fresh coat of paint**  
Notice any chipping or peeling exterior paint? Consider a touch-up. If you hire a professional, you'll want the work done in the spring so it's ready by mid-summer.

**DO YOU THINK YOU'LL NEED PROFESSIONAL HELP WITH ANY OF THESE TASKS? CALL ME FOR A GREAT REFERRAL!**

# Planning the Perfect Summer Party

Once your home is freshened up, it's time to think of ways you can flaunt it! Reference this guide as you plan your barbecue, bonfire or backyard party in the months ahead.

## The When

- Holiday weekends are great, but keep in mind, guests might already be going to another party, so send invites early!
- Consider posting a poll on social media to find a date that works best for your friends.

## The Who

- Send invitations via social media, email or mail.
- Will you keep it small or go all out?
- Confirm attendance with guests a few weeks before to determine the amount of food and drinks you'll need.

## The Menu

Determine what food you'll serve and how you'll prepare it. Choose one or a combination of these options:

- Cook on your own
- Host a potluck
- Hire a caterer

## The Venue

- Make sure the patio or party space is refreshed!
- Update or polish up old furniture.
- Consider adding fun amenities like string lights or a fire pit.

## The Entertainment

Try these fun party activities for kids (and adults) of all ages:

- Frisbee toss
- Volleyball
- Water balloon toss
- Hula hoops

