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Your Homeowner's To-Do List for June

Yay, summer officially starts on June 21st but you can get a head start on the season by taking care of all your home chores now. These to-dos cover many of the basics, leaving you with more time for fun as summer moves into full swing:

- 1. Create a Summer Fun List:** This will identify all the fun things you and your family want to do over the summer and help keep you on track. A big chalkboard or family bulletin board is ideal.
- 2. Check Play Equipment for Safety:** Over time equipment can degrade. Keep things safe by checking swings, zip lines, slides and other structures for safety; repair or replace as needed.
- 3. Schedule a Maintenance Review for your Cooling System:** Take the time before hot weather sets in to dust ceiling fans, install window air-conditioning units and schedule maintenance for a whole-house cooling system. (Most home warranties include this service.)
- 4. Check Irrigation Systems:** A faulty sprinkler or irrigation hose that goes unnoticed can quickly cause big problems for your lawn, garden and water bill. Prevention pays off!
- 5. Clean Out Garages and Sheds:** More time outdoors means you'll be using your outdoor storage areas

regularly. Get things cleaned, organized and/or thrown out for better efficiency.

- 6. Prepare Seasonal Gear:** Camping, beach trips, and summer sports are here! Make sure your gear is easy to reach and ready to go.
- 7. Schedule Big Outdoor Projects:** Looking to build a new deck or repaint the house? Now is the time to get those things on the schedule before contractors are booked up.
- 8. Clean Gutters and Downspouts:** Especially if this didn't get done in the fall! Damaged gutters lead to damaged siding and foundations.
- 9. Check and/or Replace Screens:** Hotter weather leads to more open windows and sliders. Make sure screens are in good shape to avoid unwelcome house guests (like flies and wasps).
- 10. Make sure your Go-Bag is good to go:** Hot summer weather comes with its share of weather-related natural disasters. Don't be caught off-guard; make sure you have vital documents, belongings, and survival necessities (like non-perishable food and water) ready to go at a moment's notice.
- 11. Empty Standing Water Regularly:** Keep mosquito populations down by regularly checking your property for standing water and emptying it.

June Calendar

- June 14 - Flag Day
- June 21 - Father's Day
- June 21 - Summer Begins
- June is Nat'l Homeownership Month

Homeowner Tips



Best Thermostat Setting for a Heatwave

What is the best setting to keep your HVAC from being overworked and your energy bills from being sky-high? Experts and the Department of Energy say the magic number is 78 °F during the day when you're at home. If possible, set your thermostat to 82°F when you're sleeping and 85°F when you're away. For older adults and infants a slightly cooler setting of 76°F is recommended. Better yet, use a "smart" thermostat that is programmed to your preferences and adjusts automatically.

How to Pick Out a Perfect Watermelon

You know summer is really here when grocery stores begin to overflow with watermelon bins. And if you've ever tasted a perfect watermelon it's a memorable experience worth duplicating. But most of us have also had the unfortunate experience of spending a good bit of money on a watermelon, lugging it home and taking the time to cut it up only to discover it's not one that delivers the crisp, sweet experience you remember from eating a great one.

What separates a perfect watermelon from an awful or even so-so one is its level of ripeness. Watermelons need to be left on the vine until they are fully ripe and sweet. If you buy a less-than-ripe specimen, storing it carefully at home will not make it sweeter. The key to determining

ripeness is what's called the "field spot." Make sure your melon has a deep yellow field spot rather than one that is white or a very pale yellow. Also important is to pick one with a dull rather than glossy surface.

Here are the most important tips for better luck in picking out your next watermelon:

- Look for watermelons that are symmetrical and even in shape, have a dark yellow field spot, a dull surface, and brown webbing.
- Search for melons that feel heavy for their size and sound hollow when knocked on.
- Eat your watermelon within a week of bringing it home for the best taste.



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Copycat Cole Slaw à la KFC

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (14 to 16-oz.) pkg. coleslaw
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup whole milk
- 3 Tbsp. buttermilk
- 2 Tbsp. grated onion
- 2 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp. salt

It's no secret that KFC Cole Slaw has a dedicated following....and the best part is it's so easy to make on your own. (Serves 8)

DIRECTIONS

In a large bowl whisk together everything but the package of pre-cut cole slaw cabbage-carrot mix. Then stir in the chopped coleslaw mix.

Cover. Then chill for at least 4 hours or overnight. Give a quick stir before serving.

(Recipe courtesy bhg.com)

