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Spring Home Maintenance

Inside:

- Check Home-Safety Devices**
Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, recharge fire extinguishers, and test for radon.

- Clean Ceiling Fans**

- Clean Out the Refrigerator and Freezer**

- Clean, Pack, and Store Humidifiers**

- Deep-Clean Carpets**
Vacuum thoroughly, then shampoo.

- Dust Lightbulbs**

- Guard Against Pests**
Store dry goods in airtight containers or in the refrigerator; wash pet dishes immediately after use; place trash in tightly sealed receptacles.

- Maintain Air Conditioners**
Remove and clean filters and have central-air units serviced professionally.

- Refresh Bedding**
Replace heavy winter bedding with lighter fabrics; vacuum and rotate mattresses. Air out down comforters before storing for the season.

- Replace Storm Windows with Screens**
Clean screens by vacuuming them with the dust-brush attachment; if they're very soiled, wet them with a hose and scrub with a soft-bristle brush and an all-purpose cleaner that doesn't contain ammonia, which can discolor aluminum. Rinse screens well, and let dry in the sun before installing.
- Turn Off Heating System; Have It Cleaned**
- Wash Glassware that Has Been Stored on Open Shelves**

Outside:

- Bring Patio Furniture out of Storage**
Wipe off dirt and inspect pieces for damage. For more tips on preparing your furniture for the season, see our article on [freshening up outdoor furniture](#).
- Bring Window Boxes, Planters, and Hanging Baskets Out of Storage**
- Clean and Condition Your Grill**
For grill-conditioning guidelines, print our [grill-maintenance checklist](#).
- Clean, Sharpen, and Oil Garden Tools**
- Clean Winter Debris from Gutters**
- Have Your Sprinkler System Serviced**
- Organize the Garage and Shed**
Move winter equipment to the back and bring the lawn mower and garden tools to the front.
- Prepare Garden Beds for Planting**
Cover soil with a layer of well-aged compost, and mix with a garden fork.

- Prepare the Lawn**
Check for any dead or damaged areas, cultivate and reseed; aerate if necessary.

- Reactivate Outdoor Faucets**
Remove any insulation around them, and turn on the water supply. Hook up hoses and test them; patch any holes or replace hose if necessary.

- Reacquaint Houseplants with the Outdoors**
If you brought plants inside for the winter, put them in a sheltered place, such as a porch, for an hour, and increase exposure gradually until the weather warms enough for full-time exposure.

- Remove Protective Winter Mulch from Garden Beds**

- Service the Lawn Mower; Fill Gas Tank**

- Shake Out or Replace Doormats**

- String Up the Outdoor Clothesline**

- Wash Porch and Patio Floors**
Thoroughly sweep, and then scrub floors with a long-handled brush and mixture of all-purpose cleaner and hot water.