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Spring Clean Up

Glen Haege's Top 5 spring home improvement projects

by Glenn Haege
America's Master Handyman

Here in Detroit, we've had a rough, tough winter. That means that the number one item on this list is especially important this year.

This is not something you can

put off. It is important to complete it right now, before the spring rains come.

Here are some other tips as well, to bring you, and your home, into spring with ease.

#1

Manage by walking around outside

Walk around your home three times.

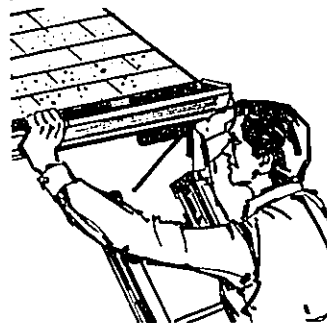
The first time,

step back from the house and check out the roof for shingles and eaves. Damaged shingles can cause water damage.

The second time around the house, look at the windows and walls.

The third time, look at the ground. The bitter freezes we had this year caused huge chuck holes on the roadways, it probably did the same thing to the ground around your house. The driveways on many homes have heaved and will send torrents of water washing against the house. Fill in bird-bathing immediately, and get driveways or walks mud jacked if they will direct water toward the house.

If you discover shingle or ground problems, take action immediately!



#2

Wash Your Windows

The outside windows have a winter on grime on them. Making them sparkle doesn't have to be a hassle. For outside windows use this simple procedure: Add 4 oz. vinegar and 1 teaspoon TSP (Trisodium Phosphate is available at any hardware store) to one gallon water. Sponge on the water, then squeegee off.

Wipe up water drips with a cotton towel.

The inside of your house has different dirt, so you need a different cleaning solution. Mix 4 oz. ammonia and 1 teaspoon TSP to one gallon of water. Lay a big Turkish towel on the window sill before you clean. Sponge on the water, then squeegee off. You will now not only be able to see through them, your windows will sparkle like diamonds.

#3

Clean the Deck

Here's an easy way to deep clean the deck. Mix an organic cleaner, like Simple Green® or Clear Magic® 50/50 with water. Pour the solution into a garden pump-type sprayer. Then deep clean your deck 8 to 10 square feet at a time.

The procedure is simple. Soak down an 8 to 10 square foot section with the solution. Sprinkle on a little water. Scrub with a stiff push broom until suds appear, then hose off. This often makes the deck look so good you may not have to re-stain.

Your Home is Your Largest Investment

Professional landscaping by Four Seasons Garden Center can increase your home's value. A recent Gallup survey concluded that a 15% increase in selling price can be realized when the house is nicely landscaped.

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