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Spring Cleaning Guide: To-Do's for Every Homeowner

Get a fresh start on the new season by giving your home a much-needed cleaning. From reorganizing to scrubbing surfaces, this guide will walk you through what you need to do to get your home clean this spring.

Wash Your Windows

Be sure to pick a cloudy day to wash windows. "If it's too sunny, the cleaning solution will dry too fast and you'll have streaks," says Donna Smallin, author of *Cleaning Plain & Simple* (Storey Publishing). For a window-washing solution, Smallin combines 1/2 cup of sudsy ammonia (which is a specific type of ammonia), 1 pint of rubbing alcohol, 1 teaspoon of dishwashing liquid, and 1 gallon of water.

Clean Sliding Door Tracks

Sliding glass door tracks probably aren't the first spots you'd think to clean, but you'll appreciate having done it before the outdoor entertaining season gets into full swing. Smallin suggests scrubbing the tracks with an old, dry toothbrush to loosen debris, then using your vacuum hose to remove it. Finish with a wet sponge.

Scrub-Down Sometimes Overlooked Surfaces

You may overlook these surfaces on a daily basis, but once a year, give your baseboards, door frames, and walls a good scrub-down. Wash them with a sponge and a squirt of dishwashing liquid mixed in a bucket of warm water.

Deep-Clean Your Home's Carpets

To maintain a new carpet's warranty, you may need to have it cleaned professionally every 12-18 months, Smallin says. Otherwise, you can do it yourself by renting a deep cleaner or buying a professional-style model designed for home use.

Clean Under Furniture & Appliances

Grab a partner and move your sofa and chairs, roll up area rugs, then vacuum the floors. Move your kitchen appliances away from the wall as much as you can. "In some cases you can pull them out enough that a vacuum hose will reach," Smallin says.

Freshen up Your Furniture

Restore smooth leather with an upholstery cleaner and conditioner. Use a suede brush to perk up nubuck leather. For wood furniture, use Smallin's recipe to make your own all-natural cleaner and polish: Mix 1/2 teaspoon of olive oil and 1/2 cup of vinegar or lemon juice in a plastic spray bottle; shake well and spray onto a microfiber cloth.

Refresh Your Window Treatments

Curtains and draperies aren't typically dirty enough to launder. Instead, go over them thoroughly with the upholstery attachment on your vacuum. "To remove dust from sheer curtains, put them in the dryer on low with a fabric-softener sheet," Smallin says.



Dust Light Fixtures

Use a microfiber or lint-free cloth to dust fixtures and bulbs you can reach. For ceiling fans, skip the ladder and use an extendable duster. To clean grimy bulbs, lightly dampen your cloth with vinegar. Caution: Be sure bulbs are cool to the touch and your hands are dry.

Get Your Home Organized

Pick up and eliminate clutter in each room before you start cleaning. Equip yourself with a few designated containers when you are picking up in each room: a box for garage sale items, another for items to donate, and a garbage bag for items to toss. Put away the things you are keeping in their rightful places and rooms.

Make a Wardrobe Transition

Now that it's warm outside, have your winter clothes cleaned. Consider storing clothes at a dry cleaner if you don't have enough space in your home. Put away gloves, winter clothing items, and boots so you'll have plenty of space for spring clothing.

Give Your Home a Safety Inspection

Spring cleaning is the perfect opportunity to check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Perform all required safety checks. If you don't own a fire extinguisher, purchase one. Learn how to use it, and keep it in the kitchen.

Apply Exterior Paint

Spring is the perfect time to freshen the face of your home with a new paint job. An updated color scheme can take your house from forgettable to traffic-stopping. The average exterior paint job lasts 10 years, so make sure it's done right. If your house doesn't require a full paint makeover, consider a touch-up, which can prolong the life of your siding and trim.

For full article go to:

<http://www.bhg.com/bhgrelife/spring-cleaning-guide-to-dos-for-every-homeowner/>

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Not intended to solicit properties currently listed for sale

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Another Record Month for Home Sales

The London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS® (LSTAR) announced another record month for residential sales in March, with a total of 1,242 homes sold, an increase of 44% over the same period last year. This represents the best results ever for March, since LSTAR began tracking sales data in 1978. "We continue to experience a very robust marketplace, with some very strong year-to-date sales as well," said LSTAR 2017 President. "After the first quarter of 2017, year-to-date sales are up by 30.4%, compared to 2016. We've been telling consumers who are thinking about putting their home on the market that current conditions are very encouraging. You have to go back to 2004, the only other instance when sales surpassed 1,000 homes in March.

April 3, 2017 - London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS®.



Breakdown of March Residential Sales

Type	Units Sold	Average Price
2 Storey	315	\$471,815
Bungalow	112	\$267,521
Ranch	110	\$426,961
Townhouse Condo	104	\$197,032
High Rise Apt. Condo	55	\$195,902

2017 Average Prices (YTD)

Type	Average Price	Increase from 2016
Detached	\$339,649	16.6%
Condo	\$220,795	14.6%
Total Residential	\$314,847	15.8%

St. Thomas also had a very healthy March, with a total of 108 homes sold, up 44% from the same time last year. The average home price in St. Thomas was \$247,455 up 2.2% from the previous month.

Need Motivation to get Started on your Spring cleaning?

Did you know that pile of books collecting dust in your basement or that extra blender at the back of your cupboard could help change someone's life for the better?

Participating in the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation's signature fundraising event is your opportunity to do just that. The 9th annual National Garage Sale for Shelter takes place on Saturday, May 13th, 2017. This one-day charity garage sale is held the day before Mother's Day at hundreds of Royal LePage offices and other community locations across Canada. All proceeds from the event support women's shelters that offer safety and support to thousands of women and children escaping domestic violence each year.

Since the launch of the National Garage Sale for Shelter in 2009, \$2.25 million has been raised to fund women's shelters across Canada. The Royal LePage Shelter Foundation also supports prevention and education programs that help stop the cycle of family violence and help youth to develop healthy relationships. Royal LePage covers the administrative costs of the Shelter Foundation and sponsors cover event expenses so 100% of all funds raised goes directly to the cause.

We encourage you to get involved by donating gently used items to one of our offices and by visiting the National Garage Sale For Shelter in your community to shop for great deals and unique treasures.

Small Item Drop Off Location:

South Office - 334 Wellington Rd. S., London

Royal LePage Triland Realty Garage Sale For Shelter

Where:

London & St. Thomas Association of REALTORS®
342 Commissioners Rd. W., London
(between Wonderland Rd. S. & Wharcliffe Rd. S.)

When:

Saturday, May 13th
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Easter Events To do in London

Westmount Easter Egg Hunt

Village Green Park
Saturday, April 15th - 9:30 am to 12 noon
<https://www.facebook.com/events/182291475598835/>

Easter Egg Hunt

German Canadian Club
Saturday, April 15th - 2 pm to 4 pm
<http://germancanadianclublondon.com/event/easter-egg-hunt-3/>

Easter Egg Hunt

Boler Mountain
Saturday, April 15th - 8:30 am to 4 pm
<http://www.byronoptimists.ca/EventDetails.aspx?Eventid=53>

Easter Egg Hunt

Idlewyld Inn & Spa
Sunday, April 16th - 9 am to 10 am
<http://www.idlewyldinn.com/pages/restaurant/easter-sunday.php>

