



## Spring Cleaning...The Outside

**NEEDING ATTENTION** The inside of the house is not the only place that needs some attention. As the warmer months approach you will also want to get things ready outside so that you can enjoy the sunshine.

**ALL DECKED OUT** Begin by checking your BBQ and grille. Now that spring is in the air, you will want to be able to cook burgers and hotdogs out on the sundeck. Make sure the propane connection is safe. To do this put some soapy water onto the connection, if bubbles form you know there is a leak. You will want to seal this completely by tightening the connections. (Be sure to check the expiry date on the tank). Next use a wire brush to clean the grilles. After it is clean spray on some non-stick cooking spray for easier cleaning after the next well-done hamburger.

**DIRT CHEAP** Is the exterior of your house looking dirty? Then it's time to do some wall washing. By using a bucket of water/soap, a long handled brush and garden hose you can clean the dirt off the exterior siding (vinyl, Hardi-plank or wood).

**A REAL PANE** Once the walls are washed, focus on the windows, exterior doors and window/door screens. Remove all screens and lay them on the driveway or any hard surface. Spray them with water from the garden hose and use an all purpose cleaner to get rid of whatever is left. Allow them to dry as you clean the windows and windowsills.

**SCOPE OF WORK** To clean the windows from the outside, use a telescoping window squeegee and a bucket of water/soap. The next best thing is a garden hose with a spray nozzle. If you are going to use an extension ladder be careful and make sure you have a helper.

**A CUSHY JOB** You will also want to clean outdoor furniture. Plastic furniture can be cleaned with a mixture of water and dishwashing detergent. Wash the furniture then rinse them off using that garden hose. This should bring back the original color and remove any dirt. If you have outdoor cushions for your furniture that are looking a little dirty, use a spray bottle filled with water and one tablespoon of laundry detergent. Spray the solution on the dirty areas and wipe with a soft cloth. Let cushions dry completely.

**BUNCH OF SHRUBS** Check all trees and shrubs around the house and prune them if needed. Replace the soil in planter boxes. Fertilize your lawn or treat for moss. The best times of year to fertilize your lawn are early spring and in the fall, so add it to your spring cleaning list so you don't forget.

**NO MOSS!** Removing moss not only helps the roof to look clean it also helps prolong the life of the roof. But don't get up on your own roof if you've never been up there or if you are not completely comfortable doing so, and also be certain to wear a safety harness that has been properly secured.

**JOE COOL** If you use window air conditioners to stay cool during the summer, clean them out and reinstall them.