

# SPRING

## Tips for the home

Now that the days are longer and weather is warming up, there are lots of things you can be doing to make your home and gardens look their best.

### Indoors

#### Try wallpaper in a small space

Want to make a big change at a small cost? New wallpaper can personalise a small space such as a study or nursery in a big way. You don't have to have spacious rooms to pull off funky wallpaper. A vertical pattern will help to add the illusion of a higher ceiling whilst small and open patterns in a light neutral tone can help to stretch the space and make the room feel much larger.

#### Spring Clean

Take some time to have a really good clear out. Be ruthless! Get rid of anything you haven't used in the last 12 months and get the family involved to have fun re-living the memories. Car boot sales are popular all over the county - sell your unwanted items and start saving some pennies. Following your spring clean, you may have discovered old photographs, tickets, flyers from days out and more - choose a selection of them and put together a scrapbook. Personalize it and make it your own.

#### Create a fireplace display

Homebuyers consider fireplaces a desirable feature when searching for a new house. With the winter months behind us, the inside of your fireplace doesn't need to stand empty. You could arrange pillar candles of varying sizes or add an assortment of plants in attractive pots to fill the space and create a pretty focal point.

### Outdoors

#### Get your grill on

The barbeque can be the central cooking source of your summer entertaining so make sure it is in good working order. Scrub down the racks and treat yourself to some new tools of the trade - a basting mop, grilling basket, skewers and tongs and have them on show. People love the ambience of outdoor entertaining.

#### Add a splash of colour to your fence/decking

Use the wide range of available colours to extend the indoor palette of your home outside. You can choose from classic blues or greens or bolder colours but proper application is key. Follow directions carefully for a long lasting stain.

#### Plant window boxes and plant pots

Window boxes and pots make maximum impact of annual flowers. Most plants grow happily in well draining containers. Space plants well to give them sufficient room to grow, but also ensure that your container will look full and lush.

#### Dust off outdoor furniture

Take your outdoor furniture out of storage and get it all in top condition ready for use again.

#### Tidy up exterior

With newly painted fencing/decking, fresh new window boxes and colourful plant pots it would be a shame to welcome visitors in to admire your handy work through a tatty front door. Give the exterior a lick of paint to freshen it up and provide a more welcoming entrance for you and your guests.



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