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Seeing green: How to help your | Stop weeds before lawn bounce back from winter

the elements throughout the year, and each season brings its own unique set of challenges. Summer heat waves can make it hard for lawns to maintain their lush green appeal, while the falling leaves of autumn can threaten root systems if not handled properly. Winter frost and snow also can pose a threat to lawns, leaving homeowners with some work to do when spring arrives.

Spring is a season of revival, and that spirit of rejuvenation extends to lawns. When the last vestiges of winter begin to disappear, homeowners can dust off their gardening gloves and start taking steps to revitalize their lawns for the months ahead. · Look for signs of dam-

age. Winter can be hard on lawns, so it's important for homeowners to look for signs of damage before they begin planning any landscaping springtime projects. Salt damage can occur in areas that received heavy snowfall over the winter. Many communities use rock salt to de-ice snow- and ice-covered roads, and that rock salt is largely made up of sodium chloride, which can draw moisture from grass and cause it to brown. Salt trucks used during winter storms often spit salt out onto lawns, so don't be surprised if you notice brown spots on your grass, especially in those areas closest to the road. Winter lawn damage may also be caused by voles, burrowing mouse-like rodents that make paths beneath the snow to hide from predators and feed on grass blades and roots. Lawns with distinctly matted areas may also have been damaged by snow mold that can weaken turf.

· Consult a professional landscaper. Homeowners with considerable experience tending to damaged lawns can no doubt identify and address problems on their own. That's because many problems are a result of the weather, which tends to be similar

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Winter weather, including snow, can damage lawns, leaving homeowners with some work to do when spring arrives.

and produce similar prob- many homeowners, who lems from one year to the should always consult next. But inexperienced landscaping professionals homeowners should con- if they feel uncertain inspections sult professional landscapers before attempting to address problems on their own. Winter lawn damage may be caused by a variety of factors that can produce similar symptoms, and professional landscapers can identify the culprits behind such damage and provide the most effective solutions to restore the

· Remove debris. A light raking can help remove any debris that accumulated over the winter. Such debris, which may include fallen branches and fallen leaves left behind from the final days of fall, can prevent lawns from getting the sun and water they need to thrive. Remove this debris, but make sure the grass is not frozen when you do, as walking on frozen grass can cause further damage.

Let the grass grow. Mowing the lawn is a chore that's reserved for spring, summer and maybe early fall, but it's important that homeowners don't jump the gun and mow too early after winter. A patient approach allows the grass to reestablish itself, so let it grow a little higher than you normally would before the first cut. When the grass is roughly 4.5 inches high, you can cut it down to three inches and then maintain your normal mowing routine throughout the rest of spring and

Revitalizing lawns in springtime is a priority for

about addressing any damage they discover during their post-winter lawn

How to childproof your home

their newborn sons and daughters home, not the least of which is childproofing their homes so the newest additions to their families are safe and sound. The strategies moms and dads employ when childproofing their homes will change as youngsters grow older and mure curious, but the following are a few tips to get parents started.

· Install safety latches and locks on cabinets and drawers. Curiosity might start to take over at the moment infants learn to crawl, so new parents should install safety latches and locks on all cabinets and drawers in their homes. The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission notes that such latches and locks can prevent access to a host of potentially harmful items, such as medications, cleaning products, knives, and other sharp objects.

· Use anti-scald devices. Burns from hot water can quickly cause significant burns to young children's skin, so install anti-scald devices that regulate water temperature and reduce the risk of kids being burned. The CPSC also recommends lowering water heaters to 120 F to further reduce the risk of burns.

· Use safety gates at stairways and in rooms

New parents face a host that are off limits. Safety of challenges upon bring gates around stairways and in doorways of prohibited rooms can reduce the likelihood of potentially harmful falls and keep kids out of rooms where they might be harmed. Place gates in the doorways of rooms that contain sharp objects, work tools, substances that can prove harmful if ingested. and any other items you don't want inquisitive tots to come into contact with. Make sure all safety gates at the top of stairways are the kind that can be nailed

into the wall. · Attach bumpers to the edges of sharp furniture. Corner and edge bumpers can reduce the risk of injury when kids bang their heads on sharp furniture such as coffee tables or other items with hard edges. Make sure the bumpers are firmly secured before allowing youngsters into the room.

Infants, toddlers and young children are vulnerable to injury around the house. Parents can reduce that injury risk by taking several steps to childproof their homes. More childproofing tips are available at www.cpsc.gov.



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Few things can be as troublesome to gardeners landscapers weeds. Weeds seemingly spring up overnight and quickly can overrun lawns and/or garden beds. Landscaping enthusiasts may spend countless hours and weekends coping with weeds without truly getting to the root of the problem. However, preventing weed growth need not be so difficult.

According \mathbf{to} experts at "This Old House" and The Family Handyman, the secret to preventing weeds is to maintain a thick, healthy lawn. A vigorously growing lawn will crowd out weeds and block the sun weed seeds need to germinate and thrive. As a result, fewer herbicides may be needed and homeowners can spend less times on their hands and knees pulling out weeds.

Mow at the right height

Crabgrass is a notoriously virulent weed that can quickly snuff out blades of grass. Crabgrass likes hot, dry conditions, and it only takes one plant to spread the seeds that can overtake the lawn. Preventing these conditions can stop crabgrass from flourishing. Mowing at higher heights and leaving grass blades taller can shade the soil, helping to prevent the germination of crabgrass. Shady conditions also will help the soil retain moisture and prevent the arid conditions crabgrass likes so much.

Water deeply

to growing in adverse conditions, including especially hot temperatures. When such conditions arise, weeds establish deep roots while the roots of the grass can easily die off. Instead, when watering, wet the soil to a depth of four to six inches. This helps grass to establish strong root systems that will help lawns overpower pesky weeds.

Time weed killers

Whether you manually remove weeds or apply weed killers, timing is key. Combat weeds in the early spring before they have a time to fully form and start proliferating through seed dispersement. Once seeds spread, their growth is difficult to control. Recognize that no single herbicide or weeding tactic will work for every type of weed. Broadleaf weeds, like dandelions, unwanted grasses, and sedges are the three most common types of weeds. Homeowners will have to adapt based on the type of weed that is most prevalent in their lawns.

Watch fertilizer amounts

Strike a balance with fertilizer, finding the right amount to deliver continuous nutrition to the lawn, but not overfeed it so that weeds can thrive. Many lawns only require fertilizer once or twice annually, in the autumn and spring.

By following these guidelines, lawn and garden enthusiasts can prevent the proliferation of unsightly and potentially Weeds are accustomed harmful weeds.

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3 ways to improve indoor air quality all year long

living in cold weather climates to experience some inhabitants. Such cabin fever. Winter weather confines many people to their homes, making many antsy to get out once the first signs of spring begin to

In addition to contributing to cabin fever, winter weather can have a negative impact on indoor air quality. While air pollution is something most often associated with densely populated cities, the air inside homes is not immune to pollution, especially during long winters when windows are often closed for months at a time. Though open windows in spring and summer can vastly improve indoor air quality, there are ways to ensure that air stays fresh and healthy regardless of which season it happens to be.

1. Clean the floors.

Dirty floors are one of the chief contributors to poor indoor air quality. Dust, dirt, pollen, and pet dander can accumulate on floors, leading to poor air quality and potentially aggravating respiratory conditions such as asthma. When vacuuming, use a vacuum with a HEPA filter, which is a uniquely designed mechanical air filter that traps harmful particles such as pollen, pet dander and dust mites. When you finish vacuuming, mop floors to gather any dust or allergens that escaped the vacuum.

2. Control indoor air

Moist air is great for dust mites and mold, both of which are very bad for humans, so do everything you can to maintain healthy levels of indoor air moisture. Dehumidifiers can reduce indoor air moisture and control allergens, but it's important to take additional steps as well. When bathing, try to keep a bathroom window open on a slight crack to prevent mold growth. When preparing meals in the kitchen, make use of your exhaust fan. In addition, don't overwater houseplants, as they can become breeding grounds for mold.

3. Resist synthetic fra-

grances.

A home that smells good tends to feel more pleasant, especially during months when windows are closed. But synthetic fragrances, such as those found in detergents and air fresh-

As winter wears on, it's eners, may be providing not uncommon for people that welcoming scent at a heavy cost to a home's grances may be emitting various chemicals, including volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, into the air, affecting indoor air quality and possibly even human health. When buying laundry products, look for those that are fragrance-free, also choosing home cleaning products that do not include any artificial fragrances.

Indoor air quality tends to suffer in colder months, when windows are closed and doors are open only briefly. But homeowners can take a handful of simple yet effective steps to ensure the air in their homes is healthy all year long.

Freshen up your home spring

chilly spring, come homeowners are eager to make rooms overcome throw open their win- with dry air from heatdows and doors and ing systems feel comfortbreathe new life into able. Just be sure to their homes. Simple avoid changes made now - even before the weather begins to warm up - can improve interior spaces and brighten the atmosphere of a home.

· Go plant shopping. one plant in your home room's

After a few months of and misting plants introtemperatures, duces moisture into many indoor air, which can overwatering plants, which can lead to mold growth.

· Swap out throw pillows. Accent pillows on beds and sofas are quick and inexpensive ways to add new bursts of color Research from NASA to rooms. You may be suggests adding at least able to make over a entireper 100 square feet is scheme with new pilefficient enough to clean lows. Invest in pillows air. Fresh foliage also that you can switch with makes a home feel warm each season so your and inviting. Watering decor will never look



Clean existing light fixtures. Another way to brighten the mood in a home is to periodically clean light fixtures to make sure they are working effectively. Spend time dusting them and cleaning off any accumulated debris. If need be, switch out old lamp shades for newer ones that let more light shine through. If inadequate lighting is a problem no matter how many lamps you have, consult with an electrician about installing more overhead and accent light-

· Give rugs and floors a deep cleaning. Recirculated air may be full of dust and other microscopic particles that end up blowing throughout your home. Also, it's easy to track in dirt and other materials on your shoes that become imbedded in carpeting. At least once a year, rent or enlist the surfaces of carpet and upholstery cleaners to give floors a thorough cleaning. You may be surprised at how clean and fresh a home looks and smells once

rugs and carpets are deep-cleaned. You also can make a dry carpet cleaner using baking soda, corn starch and desired fresh herbs for fragrance. Sprinkle and then vacuum up after a few hours.

Color-coordinate bookshelves. Group all books with similarly colored covers together for an instant and eveappealing look.

· Simmer some homemade home deodorizer. In a large pot, boil water and some scented herbs, such as rosemary, citrus rinds, vanilla, or lavender. The aroma will waft through the home, creating a pleasing scent.

· Invest in new window treatments. Lightweight draperies or new blinds or shades can transform the look of a room. Be sure to keep curtains and blinds open during the day to maximize the hours of sun-

Homeowners make some simple changes while they're stuck indoors and reap the benefits when the weather warms again.

How to take care of your trees

Lawns and gardens tend to draw the bulk of homeowners' attention come spring and summer. But it's important that property owners tend to the trees that dot their property as

The types of trees homeowners have on their property may influence when it's time to trim and prune the trees. Homeowners concerned about tree maintenance should speak with local landscaping professionals and tree services about caring for the trees on their specific properties, but there are a few tricks to pruning trees that homeowners should keep in mind when dusting off their gardening tools.

· Prune at the right time. The Arbor Day Foundation® notes that pruning during dormancy (i.e., winter) is the most common practice. Pruning in late winter, after the season's coldest temperatures have passed, can lead to impressive and healthy growth in the spring. The ADF advises that some trees, including maple and birches, may bleed sap during pruning. But this is normal and should cease as the tree

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• Trimming

starts to bloom. Novice landscapers should confirm with landscaping professionals about the best time to prune trees on their properties to ensure they are not inadvertently harming the trees or making them more vulnerable to

 Use appropriate tools. When removing branches, use sharp tools to minimize damage to the bark. The ADF notes that young trees are best pruned with onehand pruning shears with curved blades. For trees with high branches, use a pole pruner or hire a professional tree service. Novices should avoid anything too risky when pruning their trees, leaving the more difficult jobs to the profession-

Follow the rules of pruning. When pruning trees, the ADF advises homeowners follow the onethird and a quarter rules of pruning. In adherence to these rules, no more than a quarter of a tree's crown is removed in a single season, and main side branches are at least one-third smaller than the diameter of the trunk. When trimming deciduous trees, homeown-

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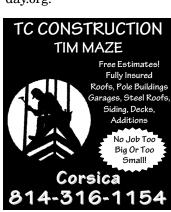
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ers should never prune up from the bottom more than one-third of the tree's total height. Finally, where possible, homeowners should aim for side branches that form angles that are onethird off vertical to form 10 o'clock or 2 o'clock angles with the trunk. · Water correctly. Like

lawns and gardens, trees need water to thrive. Insufficient watering can make it hard for trees to thrive in summer, but overwatering can be harmful, too. The ADF suggests that watering each tree for 30 seconds with a steady stream of water from a garden hose equipped with a diffuser nozzle should be sufficient. Newly planted trees may need more help as they try to establish deep root systems, so consider laying mulch around newly planted trees. Mulch helps the soil retain moisture and form deeper, stronger root systems.

Trees maintenance should be a priority as homeowners once again start tending to their lawns and gardens. More information about caring for trees is available at www.arborday.org.









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Spring cleaning projects How to make spring projects more eco-friendly you don't want to forget

weather means different things to different people. Some anticipate opportunities for outdoor fun, while others may be considering redecorating or remodeling their homes. For the latter group, home improvement season provides a great opportunity to make homes more eco-friendly.

When planning home improvement projects, it's best to first choose a project and then look for ways to make the project more environmentally friendly. Such an approach may not only benefit the environment, but it also may benefit homeowners' bottom

Interior decorating Longer warmer temperatures often translate into wanting to freshen up the interior of a home. Heavy draperies and comforters are put away, and lighter fabrics are taken out of storage. Whenever possible, reuse or repurpose items you already have rather than purchasing new items. Longer drapes can be cut and hemmed to be used as window treatments in other rooms. Making a patchwork blanket out of old T-shirts is a crafty project that makes use of items that would otherwise be destined for landfills.

laundering linens, skip the energyusing dryer and let items line dry in the sun and If you decide to pur-

chase some new items, look for products made from sustainable or organic fabrics. Hemp and bamboo textiles have grown in popularity. Hemp and bamboo plants grow quickly, and durability makes

When replacing items around the house, donate older items to a charitable organization.

Flowers and plants

to mind beautiful blooming plants. Relying on native, sustainable plants is pracenvironmentally friendly and cost-effective.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, sustainable plants are native plants. Native plants sustain local wildlife more effectively than non-native alternatives, so include native plants in your sustainable garden. Native plants also are less reliant on pesticides and herbicides to keep them healthy and viable. Don't forget to bring

plants indoors as well. Even though you may be opening the windows more, indoor plants can filter and purify indoor air. NASA Clean Air Study, led in association with the Associated Landscape Contractors of America, found that certain common indoor plants naturally remove toxic agents such as benzene, formaldehyde and trichloroethylene from the air. Efficient air cleaning is accomplished with at least one plant per 100 square feet of home or office space.

Proper disposal Spring cleaning another tradition for many families come the end of winter and dawn of spring. Many people use spring as a time to go through closets and garages to remove items they no longer use or need. In an effort to clean up fast, some people may dispose of chemical products, paints, treated lumber, and many other items in ways that can be damaging to the environment Always learn local municipal guidelines for proper disposal of potentially harmful products. recycling centers may have drop-off areas for stains and paints, used motor oil and other potentially harmful products.

Before discarding something, see if it can be donatin fewer items ending up in

doors as well. Runoff from cleaning products used on home siding or driveways rounding soil or find its way into sewage drains that ultimately direct fluids to public waterways. Choose environmentally responsible products whenever pos-

and cleaning projects provide the perfect opportunity to adopt eco-friendly practices that pay dividends for

Spring and summer call ed or sold. This will result

households. After a winter spent cooped up indoors, spring cleaning can rejuvenate a household and provide a great chance to rid a home of a season's worth of

popular spring cleaning proiects, but there are a host of additional tasks homeowners can tackle to freshen up their homes this spring.

sweeping the floors might not be enough to banish some of winter's most unin-

ter, and it's easy for a home's inhabitants to track dirt and debris inside as well. After vacuuming or sweeping floors, go over them with a mop. Doing so can remove any lingering dust, dirt, debris, and allergens the vacuum or broom failed to pick up. Apply wood cleaner and polish to wood floors to make them look even clean-

Baseboards

baseboards might not seem all that dirty, upon closer inspection homeowners might notice substantial accumulations of need to use hot water and a sponge to remove any debris that is clinging.

Curtains

Curtains also may have amounts of dust, dirt and might be more visible near the end of winter when more sunlight begins to shine through. Clean the curtains open windows for the season so any wind that blows in does not spread debris onto nearby furniture. Once the curtains have been washed, opening windows may help them dry more quickly.

Bathrooms

Bathrooms also tend to bear the brunt of winter a season in which it's too cold to open bathroom windows bathing. Inspect ceilings, tubs, shower stalls, and floors for any signs of mold growth or grime. Mold growth in a home can lead to respiratory problems and exacerbate existing conditions such as asthma, so it's best to inspect bathrooms for any signs of mold growth throughout winter. If you have let that slip, prioritize such inspections come spring

cleaning time.

It's easy to overlook furniture when tackling spring cleaning, but dust and dirt can quickly accumulate on couches and chairs over the course of winter. When possible, vacuum furniture to remove any while windows and doors were kept shut, and shampoo any cushions or seat covers that don't pass the smell

ly clean house should not overlook smaller tasks that

Reclaimed wood adds instant appeal to home projects

Repurposing salvaged wood is a popular trend in the home improvement industry. Not only can using salvaged wood give a home a one-of-a-kind look, but it's a handy way to incorporate the three Rs of green living into your lifestyle: reduce, reuse and recycle.

Reclaimed wood is often used in flooring, beams, wall treatments. and doors, but it also can be turned into furniture or accent Reclaimed wood interest to a home's decor that newer materials may lack. Although finding wood that can be salvaged takes time and some legwork, such efforts can quickly pay off. Many businesses are now devoted to reclaimed timber, which can help make the process of finding and using salvaged wood even

Homeowners considering reclaimed wood may be interested to learn that such wood can serve various functions aside from wood. New regulations into candlestick holders, species of trees from being cut down. That means it can be challenging to match old wood in a home, particularly if you're looking to maintain historical value and authenticity. Relying on salvaged wood items can alleviate this concern, ensuring that you can find rare woods that are no longer available

· Salvaged wood has character. It's difficult to mimic the natural age marks and character that older wood may have. Instead of being raised on farms, wood harvested decades ago probably grew in natural environments, making the wood both durable and strong. The color and grain of salvaged wood may also be unique.

· Look at objects in a new way. Doors are versatile pieces of reclaimed lumber because they're large. Doors can be turned

wood shutters can Reclaimed wood

in front of older homes being renovated, or older. unused barns in rural settings. You also can collect driftwood or discarded shipping crates. While some reclaimed wood can be used as-is, some pieces may require millwork, including sand-

with ideas for putting sal-



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be found everywhere. Most people do not have to look too far to find wood they can salvage. Check salvage yards, landfills, dumpsters

ing, cutting, shaping, and finishing. If you do not have these skills, you probably will have to hire someone who does.

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can produce big results.





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Are formal spaces disappearing?

Formal dining and living spaces could once be found in every home. But such rooms are becoming more and more rare, thanks in large part to the rising popularity of multipurpose spaces. As early as 1992,

architects and builders were predicting $_{
m the}$ demise of formal living spaces in homes. At that year's International Geographical Congress, architectural geographer Artimus Keiffer estimated the living room and dining room would disappear from the American residence in the next century, to be replaced by family-entertainment room and the computer room. According to experts, many home buyers have inquired about converting their formal dining rooms into office spaces or rooms to be used for purposes other

than dining. The National Association of Home Builders also released a special report listing home features expected to become the norm within the next several years. More than half of the NAHB study participants expected the living room to merge with other spaces in the home, while 30 percent expected it to vanish to save on square footage.



Formal dining rooms may fall victim to more useful spaces popularized by modern home plans.

So what is taking the place of living rooms and dining rooms? Great rooms and open-concept kitchens have steadily caught the eyes of designers and homeowners alike. Such rooms enable a free flow between lounging and entertaining spaces and the heart of the home the kitchen. On-the-go families may not be sitting down to the same formal dinners they once were, or they don't need the pomp and circumstance of formal meals. Large eat-in-kitchens function well for family meals and even for fluid than ever. Homeentertaining friends in a relaxing way.

of wireless technology now being included in and mobile devices, home residents longer need to be rele-

gated to one room in the house for their media watching or computer use. This may have helped to accelerate the disappearance of living rooms. In addition, the concept of devoting one space as a media-free zone (traditional formal living or sitting rooms tend to be tech-free) may seem antiquated to this plugged-in generation. Rooms that are comfortable and serve various purposes better suit today's homeowners.

The rules that once governed the traditional home floor plan are more owners' preferences are having a greater impact Thanks to the advent over which rooms are new homes and which no ones are soon to be histo-

Sustainable flooring options abound

Kitchen and bathroom remodeling projects tend to make great investments, earning homeowners significant returns when they sell their homes down the road. But flooring upgrades are another home renovation project that can attract attention and help sellers when they put their homes on the market.

Home flooring options abound, and it is easy to get excited and overwhelmed about flooring renovation projects. When choosing new flooring materials, homeowners should keep in mind the latest consumer trends, as those trends might help them recoup more of their flooring investment down the road.

One popular flooring trend is the use of sustainable materials. In addition to the more widely known benefits of choosing sustainable flooring, such as protecting natural resources and reducing a home's carbon footprint, sustainable flooring can help reduce indoor air pollution. Various studies from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have shown that indoor air pollutant levels may be higher indoors than outdoors. A major contributor indoor air pollution are the volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, being off-gassed by carpeting and other flooring in a

Flooring manufacturers and designers are embracing the green design and remodeling movement. Today there are many beautiful and sustainable eco-flooring options. Here are some of

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the more popular materi-

is a fast-growing grass, and that makes it a smart boasts moisture and can warp, bamboo repels water and as in bathrooms, entryways or mudrooms. Bamhues to give homeowners long-lasting and colorful.

more options. Consumers can now find brand new hardwood a wide range of sustainable carpets and rugs that are available at com- reclaimed wood reused petitive prices. Wool car- from other building applipets made with undyed or cations. After some sandvegetable-dyed yarns and ing, staining and finishminimal glues are some ing, options. Some carpets are even made from recycled content, such as rubber choose traditional hardand plastics. Water- wood flooring without based, low-VOC adhe- any concerns about deforsives paired with recycled cotton padding reduce the toxicity and impact of carpeting even further.

· Cork: Growing in popularity, cork is a material harvested from the

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restonic

bark of cork trees found in the forests of the · Bamboo: Contrary to Mediterranean. The bark popular belief, bamboo is grows back every three not a wood, but a grass. It years, so it is a handy renewable resource. Cork fire-retardant choice in many design properties and may natuapplications. Also, unlike rally repel insects. It can wood, which will absorb usually be stained to suit

various color schemes. · Rubber: Rubber floorcan be used for flooring in ing may call to mind fitareas where one wouldn't ness gyms and playthink to put wood, such ground safety substrate, but it's also slowly finding its way into homes. boo is naturally very light Made from recycled tires, in color, but can be rubber flooring is flexible stained in many different underfoot and can be

 Reclaimed wood: · Green carpeting: Rather than purchasing planks for flooring, homeowners can opt for reclaimed wood provides homeowners with the opportunity to

> estation. Eco-friendly flooring materials continue to evolve and can be smart choices in today's homes.



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How to clean and maintain stainless steel

product

No matter the style of cleaning a homeowner's kitchen, be it modern, traditional or farmhouse,stainless spicuous spot to see if it is remains a popular matersteel appliances can add a pop of shine and a touch of class. Proponents of stainless steel appliances note their easy maintenance, stylish look and durability. Plus, the neutral tone of stainless steel helps it blend in with just about any color palette.

Stainless steel is lauded for its strength and resistance to corrosion and rust. These attributes make it a popular choice in kitchens, where moisture is an issue. Although they are certainly durable choices, stainless steel appliances require maintenance to keep them looking and performing at their best. Considering that stainless steel also costs more than other finish options, taking the time to learn proper care can help protect homeowners' investments.

· Avoid chlorine bleach or other products containing chloride. Although stainless steel is highly resistant to corrosion, it is not completely impervious. Chlorine products can damage the surface of stainless steel appliances and stain them if the chlorine is left to sit.

· Do not use metal scourers or coarse abrasives on the stainless steel because such products may scratch the steel. Steel wool pads can leave behind a residue of small metal particles that may eventually rust.

· Baking soda mixed with a little dish soap can be used to remove some tough dirt and stains. Rinse well and towel dry to avoid streaking.

· Clean and wipe the steel in the direction of the "grain." Usually this means working from the top of the appliance and moving down toward the floor.

· Consult with the owner's manual before undertaking any maintenance or cleaning. The appliance may have a special coating over the stainless steel to help protect it, and it's best to know what you're dealing with before getting your

hands dirty. · If you will be trying a effective or harmful. mend applying cleansers with a soft cloth or sponge. Then wipe dry

or with a soft, clean cloth or scouring method, always allow to air dry. test it first in an incon-Stainless

ial in kitchens for sinks · Professionals recom- and appliances. With care, stainless steel can look like new for years to





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