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Your July Homeowner Checklist

Summer is here and the heat is on. We have Your July Homeowner To-Do List to get you started on a few summer projects that won't break the bank - or your back.

Screen Saver

If your screens need to be repaired, remove the torn screen. Stretch new screening over the metal frame and cut it to the correct size. Now, insert a new screening spline into the frame. Use a rolling tool. Finally, trim the excess screening material.

Make Your Pool Sparkle

Use a leaf skimmer every day or two to catch debris that lies on the surface of the water. Check the chemistry of your pool weekly to ensure the pH and chlorine are at the recommended levels.

Paint Your Front Door

The color of your front door reveals a lot about your home's style and personality. As a main focal point of your home's exterior, a beautiful front door can add significant curb appeal. Make a bold statement with a bright red or keep it neutral with a cool gray.

Get Your Grill Guest-Ready

Remove your grill grates and let them soak in warm soapy water for at least 20 minutes. Use a stiff-bristle brush to scrub away caked-on residue. Allow them to dry before re-assembling your grill.

Discourage Mosquitoes

Take a walk around your yard after rain and make sure there is no standing water

in even the smallest containers. Keep shrubs and grasses trimmed away from your house as mosquitoes love dense vegetation. Plant citronella or lavender as a natural repellent.

Throw Some Shade

Add shade to targeted areas with umbrellas or shade sails. Use shade over your family's favorite gathering spots, and you will all spend a little more time outdoors.

Check Your Mower Blade Height

Regular mowing helps keep your lawn healthy. Remember to adjust the height of your mower blade to make sure you are consistently cutting the correct amount.

Make Your Windows Shine

Clean your windows inside and out. Spray with a glass cleaner or a vinegar solution and wipe them clean with a microfiber cloth.

Plant Your Vegetable Garden

Think greens like arugula, spinach, cilantro, and parsley. Plant vegetables like beets, carrots, and broccoli.

Add Home Security

Summer vacation plans? Keep your home safe while you are away:

- Invest in a home security system that allows you to view remotely
- Keep a low profile on social media by not advertising your vacation beforehand
- Install outdoor sensor floodlights to keep your home's exterior illuminated
- Don't use a hide-a-key. Leave your key with a trusted friend or relative instead.

July Calendar

July 4 - Independence Day

July 27 - National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

July is National Picnic Month

Homeowner Tip:



Electrical Check-up

Take time this month to walk through the interior of your home to take stock of your electrical outlets and plugs.

Check any electrical wires, cables, and receptacles for wear or overloading. Keep your eye out for damage to the wires in the form of discoloration or burn markings.

Timeline: Making Our Way to Independence Day in 1776

June 11 - Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston appointed to committee to draft a proposed Declaration of Independence.

June 12-27 - Jefferson drafts a declaration. Jefferson's original draft is reviewed by the committee. Today, these important documents can be found in the Library of Congress.

June 28 - Declaration of Independence is read and presented in Congress.

July 1-4 Congress debates and revises the Declaration of Independence.

July 2 - Congress declares independence as the British fleet and army arrive in NY.

July 4 - Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia.

Did you know? John Adams believed that July 2nd was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American independence. Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826—the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.



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Cobb Salad Pasta

Your favorite lunchtime salad takes its turn as a pasta side, perfect for a 4th of July cookout.

Ingredients:

Kosher salt
1 lb. gemelli or spiral pasta
4 slices bacon
Ranch dressing
3 hard boiled eggs, roughly chopped
1 c. cherry tomatoes, halved
1 avocado, chopped
1/4 c. crumbled blue cheese
Freshly ground black pepper

Directions:

In a large pot of salted boiling water, cook pasta according to package directions until al dente. Drain and transfer to a large serving bowl. Cook bacon until crispy. Drain and chop, then set aside. To serving bowl, add ranch dressing and toss with pasta until evenly coated. Add bacon, egg, tomatoes, avocado, and blue cheese. Season with salt and pepper and toss to incorporate. Drizzle with more ranch dressing and serve.



Photo & recipe courtesy of delish.com