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3 Resolutions To Make For Your Home in 2022

New Year's resolutions aren't exactly our favorite subject but what if you challenge yourself to improve the quality, efficiency, and enjoyment of your family home? Here are 3 New Year's Resolutions to make for your home starting now!

Improve Your Indoor Air Quality

Prolonged exposure to poor air quality can lead to respiratory complications. So, take note of these simple solutions to improve your home's air quality and keep your family breathing easier all year long.

1. **Maintain Your Filters Regularly** - Change your furnace filters on the regular to prevent harmful irritants, like dust, pollen, and mold spores from invading your home.
2. **Stay a Step Ahead of Radon** - Radon test kits run as little as \$20 at local hardware or home improvement stores. Professional radon testing costs a bit more but is also a low-cost solution
3. **Check Your Safety Devices** - Make sure you install a carbon monoxide detector on every bedroom floor. Detectors are also a small but important investment — around \$40.

De-clutter Already!

De-cluttering is cheap, but it's not easy. For many of us, the task itself is overwhelming - but de-cluttering is a sure-fire solution for creating the sort of environment that gives your family room to thrive.

1. **Clothing** - Most professional organizers' rule-of-thumb is to donate items you've not worn in over two years. It sounds simple, but we do get attached to

our clothing. If you consider that many organizations like churches and shelters re-use donated items to improve the lives of others...it makes it a little easier to let go.

2. **Household items** - it's time to allow your "trash" to become someone else's "treasure." Imagine the excitement you could bring to someone's hunt as they come across the perfect set of dessert plates that sat collecting dust in your home. The same holds true for games and toys your kids have outgrown.

Your newfound space will help promote efficiency in the household. You will all spend less time looking for what you need, or worse, buying duplicates.

Include the KIDS in a Little DIY

We all heard that collective groan. We get it. DIY means "do it yourself," not "do it yourself while instructing a small novice."

Children imagine themselves as the perfect assistant, so what better way to spend some quality time with them this winter and prove them right. Depending upon their age, have them help you:

1. **Paint a room.** Do the prepping, taping, and drop cloths yourself *before* calling in the troops.
2. **Clean the windows.** Hand them a cloth and a solution of vinegar and water and let them at it. Yes, you may have to follow up.
3. **Quiet squeaky door hinges** with a quick spray of WD40. Just make sure to show them how to catch any runs with a cloth.
4. **Replace furnace filters every month.** It's a simple, important task, and kids love seeing an icky, dirty filter replaced with a new one.

January Calendar

January 1 - New Year's Day

January 18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 1-7 is Celebration of Life Week

January is National Radon Action Month

Homeowner Tips



Cut Back Brittle Branches

Take a walk around your home this winter and take note of any dead tree branches. We suggest hiring a professional to remove high or large limbs or trees - but smaller ones can be tackled with heavy-duty trimmers. Pay particular attention to branches that pose a threat to your roof. Winter storms can wreak havoc on brittle tree branches, and falling branches or tree limbs can, in turn, wreak havoc on your roof, your gutters, and your budget.

It's Time to Hang That Painting Like a Pro

Nothing personalizes a home the way paintings and photographs do. Unfortunately, many of us think of hanging art as too daunting a task to undertake. We often leave some great pieces hiding in our closets. Well, today's the day to hang that painting like a pro.

You'll need a pencil, a measuring tape, and either a hammer and nail, picture hangers, or adhesive hooks.

If you're planning on hanging a particularly heavy piece, use a stud finder to hang it more securely.

Mark a spot on your wall about 57" above the floor and 6-8" above your furniture.

Hammer in the nail and hang the art by its center wire. If there is no center wire, here's how to install one.

Mark how far from the top of the frame you want to position the wire (usually about 1/3 the way down is good), and screw in a "D" ring picture hanger, pointing upward at about a 45-degree angle. Repeat on the other side of the frame, making certain the 2 "D" rings are equal distance from the top of the frame.

When you attach the wire to the "D" rings, it should not show above the top edge of the painting, nor should the painting lean away from the wall when hung.

When you hang your art, take safety into account. Never hang a heavy piece of art above a bed or a couch.



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Baked Feta Pasta - The Simple Dish That Went Viral

Ingredients

- 2 pt. cherry or grape tomatoes
- 1 shallot, quartered
- 3 cloves garlic, smashed (optional)
- 1/2 c. extra virgin olive oil, divided
- Kosher salt
- Crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 (8-oz.) block feta
- 3 sprigs thyme
- 10 oz. pasta
- Zest of 1 lemon (optional)

Directions

Preheat oven to 400°. In a large ovenproof

skillet or medium baking dish, combine tomatoes, shallot, garlic, and most of the olive oil. Season with salt and red pepper flakes and toss to combine.

Place feta into center of tomato mixture and drizzle top with remaining olive oil. Scatter thyme over tomatoes. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes, until tomatoes are bursting and feta is golden on top.

Meanwhile, in a large pot of salted boiling water, cook pasta according to package instructions. Reserve 1/2 cup pasta water before draining.

To skillet with tomatoes and feta, add cooked pasta, reserved pasta water, and lemon zest (if using) to skillet and stir until completely combined. Garnish with basil before serving.



Photo & recipe courtesy of: delish.com