



happy homes monthly

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Spring Cleaning- Time to Brighten Up Your Home

Winter is over and spring will be in full bloom before we know it. Why not give your home a bit of TLC to shake off the doldrums? Here's what you can do to brighten up your home after a long, cold winter.

Start simple with flowers. Before you dive into the spring cleaning and household projects, set the stage with some fresh flowers. Vases filled with colorful floral arrangements will breathe life into your home while setting the stage for the rest of your home brightening activities.

Daffodils, crocus and hyacinth are early bloomers and add invigorating pops of color to any room. You also can't go wrong with a bouquet of festive spring tulips.

Switch up your decor... at least a bit. You switch your closet around based on the season, so why should your home's wardrobe be any different? You don't have to completely overhaul your interior design scheme, but a few simple switches and additions can have a massive impact.

A new comforter can completely transform your bedroom — and maybe this will be the year that you finally try that all-white palette. Bright throw pillows can transition your living room smoothly into spring. While you're at it, slipcovers have

come a long way in modern times and can be a great way to give your couch or other chairs a makeover.

Clean up the fireplace. Clear away memories of cold winter nights spent cuddled up next to the fireplace and make room for the next season's special moments by sweeping out your fireplace. Letting old ashes stick around can stink up a room, so even though this chore isn't exactly enjoyable, it's important.



Make your home look and smell like spring. Once you've removed that faint bonfire smell from your living room you'll want to pick another, more spring-appropriate scent to take its place. Candles aren't just for winter, so stock up on light scents for the new season.

If you're keeping flowers around the house, floral scents can complement things nicely. Bright, fresh citrus scents are also great for spring because they're naturally invigorating.

Spring up for a Pesto Chicken Salad



Ingredients

- 1 pkg bow tie pasta whole wheat or plus
- 1 TB olive oil
- 1 cup basil pesto jarred or homemade
- 1/4 cup Italian dressing
- 1 cup chicken grilled, can, rotisserie
- 2 cups spinach
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes
- 1/2 cup feta cheese

Instructions

1. Cook the bow-tie pasta according to package directions in a large pot of salted water. Drain the pasta and run it under water. Drizzle with olive oil and stir around.
2. Put the pasta in a large serving bowl and stir in the pesto and Italian dressing. Add the spinach, chicken, tomatoes and feta cheese. Toss to combine. Salt and Pepper to taste.
3. Cover the pasta and refrigerate. If the pasta seems dry before serving, you can stir in another tablespoon of olive oil.

Recipe courtesy of iheartnaptime.com

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