

Madison Park LIVING

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Spring Ahead: A Few Quick & Easy Ways to Liven Up Your Interiors

By LeeAnn Baker Steding
Photos by Stadler Studio Photography

It's hard to believe that we are already well on our way into 2014. Now is the time to start freshening up our homes with a little spring cheer. Here are a few quick and easy steps for getting started.

Let the light shine in. As the days start getting longer the dirt on the windows really starts to stand out. It's time to make those windows sparkle. Do it yourself or don't be afraid to hire a professional so you don't have to live with streaks and sun spots. It might be a good idea to check the status of your gutters prior to cleaning as they should be cleaned first.



color to make a statement. Hues of plum and lavender are very popular trends this year.



Rethink your art. Take a look around and see if everything is displayed just as you like. Are there pieces that need to be

Make it "pop!" Pick a fresh color to add to your existing interiors to create new energy. Add decorative pillows, throws, accessories, and flowers to your entry table, bookshelves, and furniture using various hues of this

Bring the outside in. Fresh cut flowers can make a world of difference to any interior space. Create it yourself or hire your favorite florist to make an arrangement. Nothing is more welcoming than a beautiful floral arrangement in the entry. Pick colors that match your other accessories to help extend the theme. Also, don't hesitate to plant fresh flowers in planters near the front door.



hung or adjusted? Perhaps now you can tackle that reframing project that you have been delaying? It is also a great time of year to update your framed photos by adding a few more recent photographs.



Out with the old...wait! Before you toss out old furniture, check to see if you can bring them back to life with professional cleaning or repair. If pieces need to be removed for a more thorough cleaning or repair job, schedule ahead of time so the project can be completed while you are away.

Fresh steps. Whether you have expensive carpets that need to be maintained or less expensive area rugs that are showing their age, have them picked up and taken out for a good

thorough cleaning, and repair if necessary. For wall to wall carpets that cannot be removed, schedule someone to come in and clean them in addition to your furniture and draperies.

Spruce up that bath. Spring is a great time to implement an annual grout and countertop maintenance routine. Most natural stone countertops need to be professionally cleaned and sealed every 1-5 years and doing it at the same time each year is a helpful reminder. Having your bathroom grout inspected, cleaned and sealed will keep mold from building up



and make it easier to keep it looking its best. Updated towels and a fragrance diffuser will also make the room feel fresh.

Update your bedding. Now is a great time to invest in new pillows. Take the time to make sure that all of your bed pillows and mattresses have dust-mite protectors. If you haven't already been doing so, make sure to remove these and put them through the wash.

File, don't pile. Make a point of tackling that stack of papers on the kitchen counter. Rather than stuffing them into a drawer, purchase a stand-alone file with separate dividers for each member of the family (including pets) and have a tab for coupons, menus and even address updates for making it easier to update your contacts list for next holiday season!

Take it easy and don't rush. Stick with doing one project at a time to keep from feeling overwhelmed. Conquer the items that are most important to you this year and be prepared to welcome new energy into your home.

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