

Talk about sober driving

National Road Safety Week is May 14 to 20 this year—and the initiative is a Canada-wide opportunity to raise awareness and to encourage people to be safer while on the roads.

Studies done by MADD Canada show the summer months to be the deadliest of the year for young people who drink and drive. Therefore, it is the ideal time, says Allstate Canada, for parents to talk to their teens about impaired driving.

“Summer is coming, and we, with our partners at MADD Canada are asking parents to talk with their teens about the importance of sober driving,” says Saskia Matheson from Allstate Insurance Company of Canada, a company committed to community safety and a lead sponsor of the organization. “We also want young people to



refuse to accept rides from drivers who they suspect are impaired by drugs or alcohol.”

Vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among young drivers, and alcohol is a factor in 45 per cent of these crashes. Matheson points to some valuable tips on the company website (allstate.ca) on how parents can start the conversation about impaired driving with their teens:

- Just one drink makes a difference — By the time a driver reaches a blood alcohol content of 0.10, which is roughly two beers, he or she is 51 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than a sober driver.

- Review laws — Young drivers should understand the criminal penalties associated with impaired and reckless driving. Talk to your teen about what can happen if they are caught driving impaired.

- Discuss consequences — Personal stories can be powerful motivators for change, especially when they involve other young people. Visit madd.ca to read or watch stories of individuals and families whose lives have been horribly affected by drunk driving and talk about these repercussions with your young driver.

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Follow these quick tips for a backyard or furniture revival

The on-set of mild weather expands our living space to the deck and patio throughout the summer months with backyard entertaining, relaxing weekends and sunset evenings.

This is the time when flocks of people venture into their sheds to pull out lawn furniture for another season, only to find that winter dust, mildew and debris has left it looking less than pristine. Don't let dingy lawn furniture shadow your patio entertaining. A thorough spring cleaning at the start of the season will make your outdoor space as beautiful as your indoor living space.

A thorough cleaning, however, doesn't necessarily mean an all-day job. Innovative products to brighten up tired outdoor furniture are a homeowner's best friend, say specialists in this field. One of those is a brand line called Thompson's WaterSeal Oxy powered multi-surface cleaner. It is mild and safe to use, but effective. The biodegradable formula is a breeze for cleaning furniture, wood and composite decks, siding, vinyl awnings,

concrete and masonry. Take a look at a few more tips to spruce up your outdoor space:

- Rake out walkways, ditches and small spaces that have gathered old leaves, garbage and clear patios and overhangs of cobwebs and winter nests.

- Till and add fresh mulch to flower beds and walkways to instantly increase your home's curb appeal.

- Clean windows, doors and outdoor coach lights to brighten up your home inside and out.

- Restore your outdoor deck. The Thompson's line includes a foaming-action oxy cleaner for this purpose and afterwards it suggests protecting the deck with the Advanced WaterSeal. Protect fabrics from water damage, stains and colour fading with this brand's outdoor Fabric Seal.

- Add some life to your outdoor space with hanging plants and floor planters for a pop of colour.

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