

# HOME & GARDEN

## Indoors and out, this is the time for home improvements

With the arrival of warmer weather, homeowners are taking stock of potential home repair, renovation and construction projects. Some will require a substantial investment of time and money; others

will require minimal resources – but whichever the case, the rewards can be sizable.

This is a great time to build a new deck, re-brick the patio, landscape the yard or

apply a fresh coat of paint to a weather-worn garage. You'll enjoy the results throughout the summer, and the value of your property will be enhanced as well.

Opportunities also abound for interior improvements. While you're packing winter clothes up for storage and

once again bringing out spring and summer wear, closets can be reorganized and tidied up for greater ease of use; investing some additional time now can increase your efficiency later on.

You may even be inspired to undertake a thorough spring cleaning. Washing the

windows, scrubbing the winter grime from the floors and taking note of any minor household repairs that may be necessary are good beginnings for a springtime overhaul of your home.

Be sure to evaluate carefully whether or not the fix-it projects you need to undertake are within your capabilities as a do-it-yourselfer. If you do decide to try some-

thing that you're unsure about, the staff at your local hardware store or home centre may be able to provide helpful advice.

Above all, plan ahead. If you're hiring a contractor, you'll need to explain exactly what you want to have done. And if you're doing the work yourself, there's no reason not to be fully prepared for the job ahead.

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