

Home & GARDEN LAWN & GARDEN

Spruce up your deck this spring

Early spring is the ideal time to make improvements to your yard. Replace deck, porch and fences with vinyl options for easier maintenance.

(MS) — The cold-weather season has come to a close. As you pack away your snowblower and shovels and watch your annual plantings start to bloom, you may notice how your backyard has taken a beating from sub-zero temperatures, ice, rain and wind. You are left with outdoor structures that look drab and damaged. But don't wait until the weather heats up to revive decking and fencing. Early spring is the perfect time to assess and spruce up the outside of your home.

ADVANTAGES OF EARLY SPRING IMPROVEMENTS

After all the shoveling you did this winter, it's easy to put off outdoor repairs until late spring or even early summer. Here are some reasons to start early:

- The comfortable, warm air will make outdoor work less of a chore. Why wait for an early heat wave that could zap your motivation? Take advantage of the moderately warm weather to do outdoor repairs.
- Minimize further weather-related damage to your outdoor structures. The rain, ice, snow and frigid temperatures of the winter already took their toll on your outdoor structures. Hot, scorching weather can be equally detrimental to outdoor structures. Repair and protect these items now before the heat of the summer strikes.

• Who has time for staining and sanding when there are parties and other social engagements to attend? Late spring/early summer is a busy time of year. Your weekends may be filled with graduations, birthdays and weddings, pushing home repairs to the bottom of your "to-do" list. When it comes time for backyard entertaining, you'll be left rushing around so you can have everything ready.

TIPS FOR EARLY SPRING FIX-UPS

There are plenty of chores suited for early spring weather fix-ups. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Consider revamping your landscaping. Map out new planting beds and replace/lay mulch and rocks as necessary. Plant hardy bushes that will withstand summer temperatures, leaving enough space for annuals and other flowers to be interspersed as they come into season.
- Tackle decking, porch and fencing repairs. Weatherproof your deck, porch and fence or give them a new look just in time for entertaining opportunities. A no-maintenance option for busy homeowners is using vinyl products.
- For fencing, consider vinyl, which is strong and maintenance free. It withstands heat and won't corrode, blister, peel or rot.
- Install a family pool. Certain companies offer discounted rates for pools installed in the off-season. Get it in the ground now so

you'll be able to dive in first thing come summer.

• General yard maintenance. Treat areas of the lawn that need attention with fresh seed, fertilizer and weeding. Address any issues brought on by winter weather, such as flooding or muddy areas caused by spring thaw.

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FUTURE SHOP CORRECTION NOTICE

Zenith DVD/VCR Combo Player XV8410: 10041248. This product is not a DVD/VCR Combo Player as advertised on pg. 5 of our April 29th flyer. In fact, it is a Progressive Scan DVD Player. Also, the model is not XV8410 (10041248) as advertised but DV8410 (10042956).

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.

OPEN HOUSES

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2-4 pm, 434 Highside Drive, \$339,900

Carole D. Budworth, Royal LePage Meadowtowne Realty, 905-878-8101

2-4 pm, 507 Hawthorne Cres., \$374,900

Mike Morgan, Remax Real Estate Centre, 905-878-7777

2-4 pm, 837 Childs Drive, \$364,900

Andrea Seventikidis, Prudential Town Centre Realty, 905-878-9100

SUNDAY, MAY 8

2-4 pm, 695 McColl Court, \$241,900

Andrea Seventikidis, Prudential Town Centre Realty, 905-878-9100

2-4 pm, 1573 Cartwright, \$242,900

Angel Lyons, Royal LePage Meadowtowne Realty, 905-878-8101

2-4 pm, 1577 Cartwright, \$262,900

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Friday Champion to find the Weekend
Spotlight on Homes Section showcasing more
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