



Philip Nastasi Jr

REALTOR®, ABR®, SRES®

DRE # 01892875

Rodeo Realty Inc

Phone: 818-489-1960

pnastjr@justthepperfecthome.com

WWW.JUSTTHEPERFECTHOME.COM

How to Make a Good First Impression with Your Home

Whether you're looking to sell or just want to show pride of ownership, these are simple ways to make a good first impression with your home:

LIGHTING: Use bright but warm lightbulbs throughout the house for a warm, inviting feel. Make sure dark areas feature a lighting source of some type, like a floor lamp.

SEASONAL OUTDOOR DECOR: Keep it seasonal and keep it tasteful. Good springtime ideas include potted flowers at the entry, colorful garden flags here and there, a clean welcome mat, a fountain, and a springtime door wreath.

TIDY UP: There is nothing like a deep spring cleaning to make a home sparkle, both inside and out. Outside, make sure to cut back dead foliage, sweep and rake.

Inside make sure to declutter, dust, vacuum, mop and scrub. Don't forget the stove. Make sure to wipe down appliances like the refrigerator, oven, dishwasher, washing machine and dryer.

AROMATHERAPY: Open windows and replace stale winter air with fresh air. Plug in some scented oils throughout the home.

REPAINT THE FRONT DOOR: This has a huge impact and goes a long way to revitalizing the front entry area. This is the first place most people notice as they are preparing to enter a home, so make sure it says what you want it to say about your home.

ELIMINATE EXTRANEIOUS STUFF: Now is the time to go through closets and cabinets and get rid of things you don't need or use.

INTERIOR HIGHLIGHTS: Revamp your interior look for the season with colorful pillows, throws, and a change of bedding that fits with the warmer weather and longer days to come.

MAINTENANCE: Make a checklist of things that need repair. It's better to take care of problems before they become bigger (and more expensive) problems.

FRESHEN THE PAINT: You may have rooms that would benefit from a fresh coat of paint, or a different paint color altogether. And don't forget the baseboards - either wipe them down or repaint them for a fresh new look. A new paint job is often the least expensive ROI you can achieve with your home.

Once your home is sparkling from roof to foundation, you can sit back and truly enjoy spring and all the promise it brings for the fun days ahead.

March Calendar

March 9 - Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

March 20 - Spring Begins

Homeowner Tips



It's Time to Start Those Seeds!

We know you're chomping at the bit to get out to your garden, so start indoors. According to the Urban Farmer Seed Catalog, March is the perfect month to get your tomato and pepper seeds started indoors. This ensures the seeds will be ready to plant when you get your garden going. Depending on where you live, this is a great time to start planting cold-weather vegetables like beets, cabbage, broccoli, carrots, and cauliflower.

smart moves

Your Home Maintenance Checklist for Spring

Clean Patio Furniture

Patio furniture should be an inviting place to sit and share with company. Scrub down your chairs, and throw your cushions or their covers into the laundry.

Plant a Tree

Thinking of planting more shade trees in your back yard? Spring is the ideal time to tackle this chore. Check with your local nursery for trees best suited to your micro-climate, and whatever you do, plant your trees a safe distance from your home's foundation and/or septic system.

Check the Foundation

Speaking of foundations, check your sidewalks and driveway for emerging cracks or other signs of movement in the concrete.

Clean Out the Gutters

Make sure your gutter system is free of leaves and debris, and that your downspouts deposit water away from your home's foundation.

Tune-up Garden Tools

Don't begin your spring and summer garden to-dos with dull blades or broken equipment. Check your lawnmower's blades and clippers and sharpen them if need be.



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Celebrate Green on St. Patrick's Day With Lemon Spinach Hummus

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup tahini
- 3 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 3 ounces baby spinach
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 15 ounce can chickpeas (garbanzo beans) drained and rinsed
- Olive oil and fresh parsley or basil for garnish

Directions

In a food processor, whip together the tahini and lemon juice until smooth and creamy. Add the spinach, parsley, garlic, olive oil and salt. Process for one minute, scraping down the sides of the bowl as necessary.

Add half of the chickpeas and process for one minute. Scrape down the sides of the bowl, add the remaining chickpeas and process until smooth, about one to two additional minutes.

Transfer the hummus to a bowl for serving. Drizzle extra olive oil on top and sprinkle with freshly chopped parsley, as desired. Serve immediately or store in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to one week.



Recipe courtesy of SpoonFullOfFlavor.com