

Sweep Away Winter With A Spring Cleaning Game Plan

(NAPSA)—As seasons change, the annual tradition of spring cleaning looms over the heads of homeowners everywhere. With the end-of-winter thaw, shining sun and longer days, it's no wonder people seek a fresh start through an annual ritual of home maintenance tasks. However, spring cleaning can be overwhelming if you don't know where to start. Making a plan and utilizing all available resources can help make spring cleaning an easy and enjoyable project.

For starters, get organized before you reach for the mop or broom. Create a list of everything that needs to be accomplished from the outside in. A quick walk around the outside of the house will uncover whether your lawn needs a chemical treatment or if the gutters should be cleared. Then move inside. Typical spring cleaning chores indoors might include cleaning light fixtures and walls, shampooing carpets and rugs, dry cleaning the drapes, donating clothing that will not be worn again, or organizing your CDs, movies and photographs.

Once you've taken inventory of the tasks to be accomplished in your household, determine which ones will require the help of an expert. Then spend a few minutes at your computer and visit an online Yellow Pages site, such as Switchboard.com, to find local businesses that can assist in the workload. Unlike the print Yellow Pages book, Switchboard allows you to narrow your search to include only those businesses that offer the specific products and services you are looking for. Switchboard has enhanced data for more than 2.8 million businesses across the U.S., and offers convenient



features that allow you to plot businesses on a map and sort listings by the distance from your home or office.

Once you've called in the pros, add some fun to the cleaning activities you are responsible for. Turn on some mood music, and create mini-goals and rewards for yourself. Enlist help from your kids or your close friends. Creating a little bit of competition not only makes the time go faster but motivates as well. And do not forget to eat. Make energy-boosting snacks to munch on to keep energy levels high.

Use your outdoor chores to enjoy the warmer weather. Keep the garage door open while sweeping out the garage or washing the car. More sun also means flowers are on their way, so make clearing out garden beds of dried leaves and undergrowth a priority.

Spring cleaning signifies an end to winter and the beginning of warmer weather. Approaching it in an organized manner will help you kick off spring with a fresh start.