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Get Your Home in the Swing of Summer

by *homewarranty.com*

June 21 is Summer Solstice - marking the official beginning of summer in the Northern Hemisphere. Summer brings with it more time spent outdoors in warm weather, while trying to stay cool indoors. Take some time out to take care of a few chores to get your home in the swing of summer.

Air Conditioner Maintenance

Have your HVAC system tuned up before the arrival of warm weather. Hire a trained professional for the inspection and maintenance. Check online for companies that offer discounts to homeowners who sign an agreement for spring and fall maintenance. Maintaining your HVAC system all year can save you from unexpected emergency repairs at very inconvenient times.

Check Your Lawn Sprinklers

Make sure your sprinkler system is operational before the hot weather hits. Run your system through all zones and walk your property to inspect your system. Make sure there are no broken or damaged heads. Adjust sprinkler heads that hit your house, windows, porches, and sidewalks.

Clean Your Outdoor Furniture

Whether your outdoor furniture spent the winter in the elements or in a storage shed, it's probably less-than-inviting. Scrub down your chairs and tables with soap and water. Throw your washable cushions or cushion covers into the laundry. Replace worn out cushions if necessary.

Replace Your A/C Filter

This is one system you will want to keep happy and humming all summer long. Change your AC filters every three months, or per the manufacturer's suggestions

Ceiling Fans

- **Reverse their direction:** The direction in which your ceiling fan spins makes a huge difference. In the summer, make sure your ceiling fan runs counter-clockwise so the breeze moves around the room.
- **Clean the blades:** Using a ladder, remove loose dust with a duster. Moisten a cloth with an all-purpose cleanser and wipe down each blade.

Clean Clothes Dryer Vent Pipe

Clear your dryer vents. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the leading factor contributing to the ignition of home fires involving clothes dryers was a failure to clean them. Reduce the risk by cleaning the lint screen, but more importantly, the lint vent, which is located at the back of most dryers.

Check Your Deck

- If your deck is usually full of friends and family, you don't want to have to worry about loose rails or wood decay.
- **Railings** - Make sure they are secure and properly attached.
 - **Decay** - Spot check several areas for split or decaying wood.
 - **Pests** - Check for small boreholes or a powder resembling sawdust or wood shavings as this could be a sign of termites.
 - **The Flashing** - Check the flashing for leaks or cracks. Water beneath the flashing can rot wood and weaken your deck's foundation.

June Calendar

June 14 - Flag Day

June 19 - Father's Day

June 21 - Summer Begins

June is National Safety Month

Homeowner Tip



Check Your Foundation Vents

A house with a crawl space has vents along the foundation walls to provide air circulation. This circulation helps prevent excess moisture from building up, which in turn, helps prevent the growth of mold. Over time, the screens collect dirt and leaves and may become damaged. Clean your foundation screens by hand or use a shop vacuum. Repair any damaged screens to prevent critters from taking up residence beneath your house.

Pantone Color of the Year: Confident, Carefree, and Creative

PANTONE 17-3938 Very Peri opens our eyes to new possibilities in 2022. Based on the qualities of blue, Very Peri encourages us to explore the future in a brand new light - a light that welcomes this beautiful blue with violet-red undertones.

Color of the Year is chosen by the Pantone Color Institute. The Institute's color experts follow global color trends while tracking color in fashion, travel, and entertainment. This also includes cutting-edge artists and social trends. Soon, Pantone's Color of the Year will find its way into our everyday lives, whether it's a paint choice or an article of clothing.

So, you're not a color expert, which is why we love to see what the experts at Pantone choose to complement Very Peri. Explore Very Peri's palette suggestions at [pantone.com](https://www.pantone.com). Here you will discover beautiful colors alongside the Color of the Year. These colors include anything from muted browns and greens, to vibrant pink. Pantone's complementary palettes are carefully chosen using Very Peri as a focal point.

Finally, whether you opt for Pantone's Color of the Year or your own personal color of the year, grab a paint swatch and immerse yourself in color. Make some colorful magic happen in *your* living space this year.



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June 5th is Donut Day - Enough Said

Ingredients

2 tablespoons white vinegar
3/8 cup milk
2 tablespoons shortening
1/2 cup white sugar
1 egg
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 quart oil for deep frying
1/2 cup confectioners' sugar for dusting

Instructions

Stir the vinegar into the milk, and let stand for a few minutes until thick.

In a medium bowl, cream together the shortening and sugar until smooth. Beat in the egg and vanilla until well blended. Sift together the flour, baking soda, and salt; stir into the sugar mixture alternating with the vinegar and milk. Roll dough out on a floured surface to 1/3 inch thickness. Cut into doughnuts using a donut cutter. Let stand for about 10 minutes.

Heat the oil in a large deep skillet to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Fry doughnuts in the hot oil until golden, turning over once. Drain on paper towels. Dust with confectioners' sugar while they are still warm, and serve immediately.



Photo & recipe courtesy of: [allrecipes.com](https://www.allrecipes.com) - Super Easy Doughnuts