

Curb appeal

How to create the picture perfect lawn

DIY

Become your own home maintenance and repair expert

Save money

Cost effective ways to cool your home

MEDIA PLANET

July 2010

HOME & GARDEN



SUMMER COOKING

* Guy Fieri shows you how to have an amazing BBQ in your new home!



3 TIPS

THE SEASON'S HOTTEST TIPS FOR NEW HOMEOWNERS

Your summer guide to making a new house a home.



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CHALLENGES

If you have ever been fortunate enough to move into a brand new home then you know **how wonderful the feeling is** the smell of the fresh paint, the feel of the plush carpet, and most of all knowing how everything in the house functions.

Overwhelmed? Get started here...

But it seems that only a few short months go by and things inevitably start to break, seals start to crack and the paint no longer has that distinctive fresh smell. This is usually the time when you start to freak out a little bit and come to realize that if you want to keep the home looking like it did the first day you moved in, you have to take care of it yourself.

DIY or call an expert?

But what is the average homeowner capable of doing by themselves and at what point should he/she call a professional? Does a leaky faucet really merit you to become a plumber for two days? In my experience I've found that unless you actually get paid by other people to do electrical or plumbing, call in the pro. A new hairdo caused by electrocution or a surprise pool in your kitchen will just make matters worse. As for most any other job around the house, I say go for it! Get your hands dirty, turn your 'doing dial' up a few notches, and don't be afraid to learn a thing or two along the way.

I don't typically recommend an inexperienced homeowner try electrical or plumbing because I have seen too many people pay a bigger price for it down the road. Whether it's mold caused by water damage from a leaky pipe or a nice little jolt to the system, or worse. These two trades can be difficult and time consuming. Besides, your home is often your single biggest investment and you should get to know your way around it with easier projects before

you burn it down by doing poor electrical work.

A way to save cash

There can be a number of daunting tasks around the home and at times you may think that you're in over your head. But the reality is that if you have the time and take your time, you will be surprised at what you can accomplish but more importantly, at how much money you'll save. Think if it this way. Mistakes are easy to reverse. If you put an ugly color on the wall, change it back to the original color. If your tile looks uneven, just pick it up. Even if you put a doorknob on backwards (which I have done before) just flip it around. If all of these misfortunes somehow happen to you, you would still save more money than if you had hired a handyman.

The bottom line is that your home should be a place that you can navigate. You've already spent a lot of your hard earned cash on it—now spend some time getting to know it. In the end you'll be happier you did, plus you'll appreciate that fresh paint smell for a completely different reason.



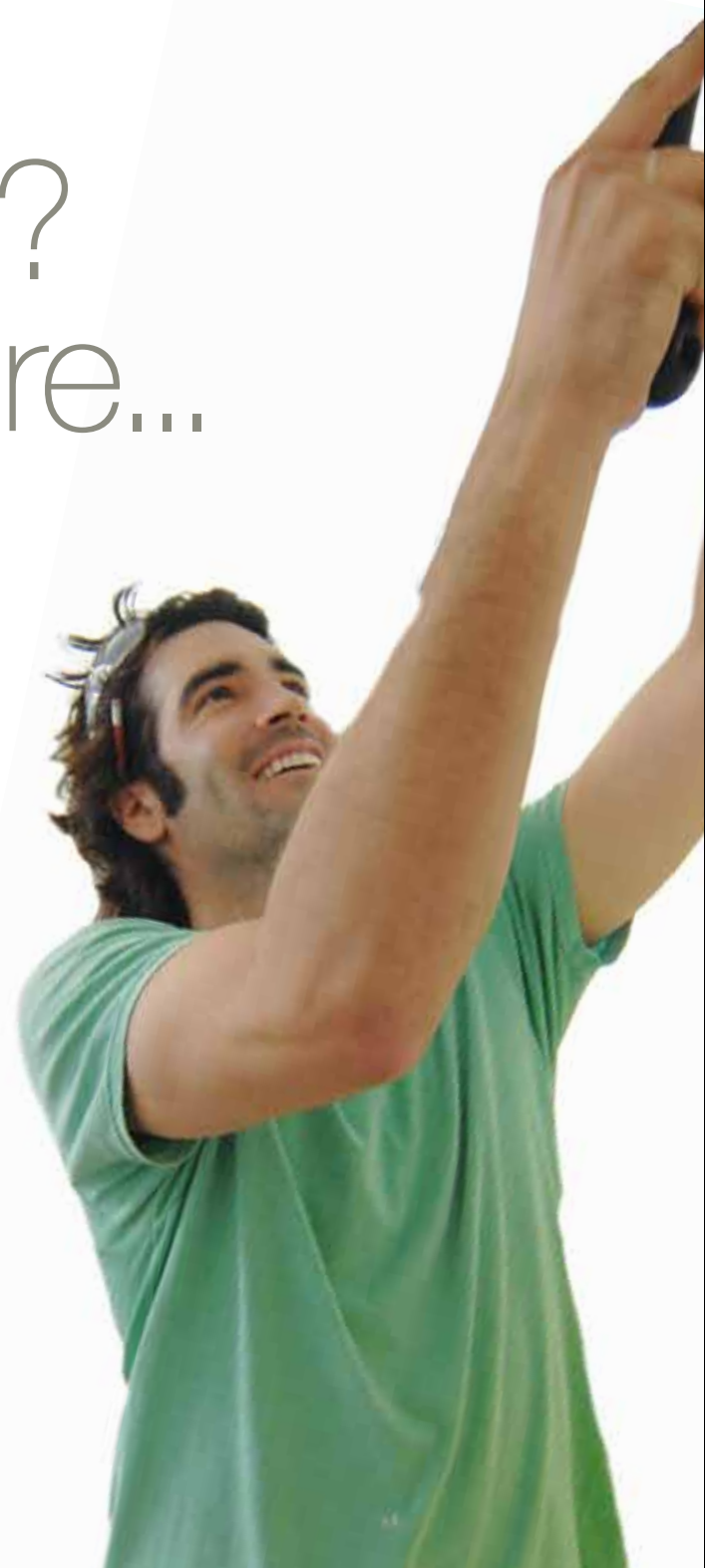
Carter Oosterhouse
Host of HGTV's Carter Can

MY BEST TIPS

- 1 Caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors (save one to four percent on cooling costs.)
- 2 Set the water heater's temperature to 120 degrees (save up to 10 percent on water heating costs; check by placing a thermometer under a tap.)
- 3 Regularly clean/replace the air conditioner's air filter (save up

to five percent on annual energy costs.)

4 "Location, location, location." This adage of home buying applies to more than just your neighborhood...it applies to your furnishings and appliances as well. As a rule of thumb, don't put "cold" next to "hot" (like your fridge next to your stove or your AC in an unshaded window.)



WE RECOMMEND



Curb Appeal
How to create the picture perfect lawn.

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"Harvest the benefits of edible landscaping. Even a 10' by 10' plot can produce lots of veggies."

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MEDIA PLANET

We make our readers succeed!

HOME & GARDEN
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TIPS TO SAVE

When the economy gets tight, improving your home becomes even more important, but there is a silver lining. The best thing about home improvement today is that it doesn't have to cost a lot. There are lots of affordable options to help you make the most of what you have. The key is to know your budget, then stick to it.

One great way to save money? Do it yourself! Since much of the cost of home improvement is attributed to labor, you can save considerably by handling the project yourself. Easy fixes include everything from painting and landscaping to changing out a light fixture.

Every six months...
■ Change the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
■ Clean the dryer vent

Every one to three months...
■ Inspect your furnace filters and replace as needed
■ Check plumbing for leaks; keep an eye out for water damage on walls and ceilings

With these tips in your back pocket, you can easily love the home you're in. For expert advice to help with your next project, visit www.acehardware.com.



Lou Manfredini
Ace Hardware's Home Expert

LOU MANFREDINI
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Helpful tips for homeowners

Whether you're moving into a new house or taking care of the one you have, homes don't come with an instruction manual. But fear not: following a few simple tips can take the guesswork out of home maintenance.

Painting is an inexpensive fix
Preparation accounts for 90 percent of a high-quality interior paint job, so don't hesitate to invest some time: patch holes with spackle, sand and wash the surface, lay down a drop cloth and use painter's tape around windows and trim. The final 10 percent is actual painting, "cutting in" with an angled brush and using a good roller to finish the job. On the outside, when weather and age cause

fading and chipping, address with a new coat of exterior paint. Scrape, sand and prime before applying two coats of your chosen color in a low-sheen finish (trim gets a semi-gloss).

Address the essentials

Pay attention to the "systems" that make your home work: plumbing, HVAC and electrical. Slow drains and clogged toilets are easily fixed with plungers of varying sizes. Inspect windows and doors for gaps that could let water in or valuable heat and AC out, and address with weather stripping or foam sealant. Cut your energy bill by replacing regular incandescent light bulbs with CFLs, and use surge protectors to keep from overloading circuit breakers.

Lou's home maintenance checklist:

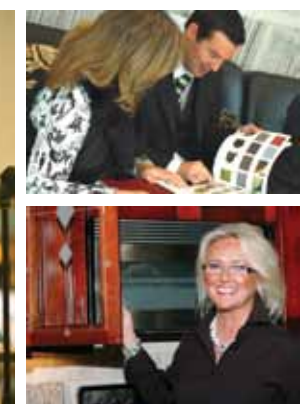
Every year...

- Have your furnace serviced by a licensed professional
- Drain the tank on your water heater

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Spokesperson for Marketplace Events Home Shows



SAVE THE DATE

Capital Home Show
Sept 24-26, 2010 | Dulles Expo Center — Chantilly, VA

Philadelphia Home Show
Jan 15-23, 2011 | Pennsylvania Convention Center

The Great Big Home & Garden Expo
Feb 5-13, 2011 | I-X Center — Cleveland, OH

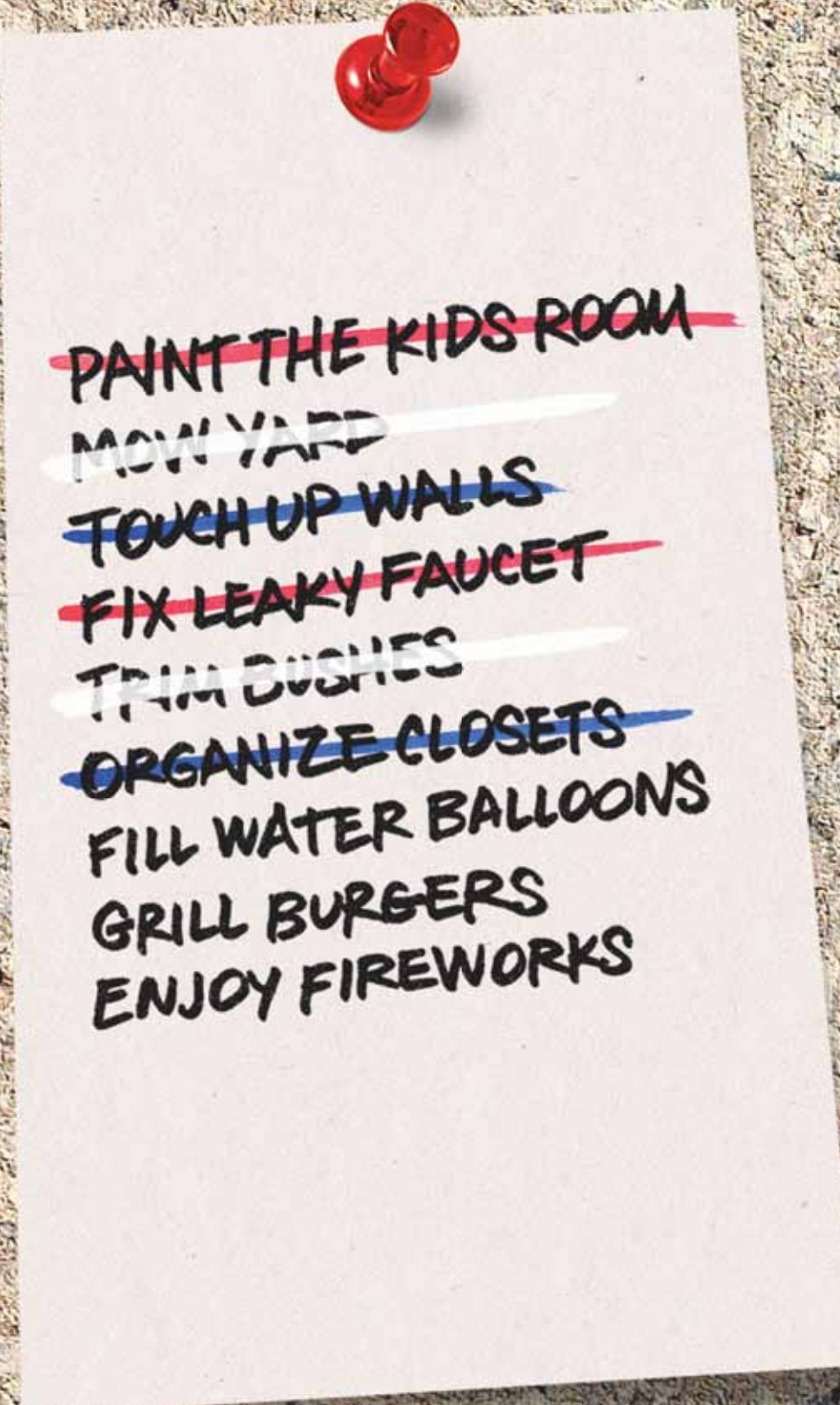
Capital Home & Garden Show
Feb 25-27, 2011 | Dulles Expo Center — Chantilly, VA

Minneapolis Home & Garden Show
Mar 2-6, 2011 | Minneapolis Convention Center

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NEWS



Summer lawn and garden care for new homeowners

Planting and caring for lawn, garden and landscape plantings can seem like a daunting challenge to many new homeowners. Here are some tips to help you keep your lawn and gardens thriving.



“If you can see your footprints... it’s time to give the lawn a drink.”

Michael C. Metallo
President, National Gardening Association

Plan ahead for a well-designed landscape

Always consider the mature height and spread of the trees and shrubs you plant in your landscape. That little spruce from the nursery will become a 40’ tree and probably more quickly than you expect! Make sure your landscape plants have plenty of space to develop their natural size and shape. Plan on saving energy with landscape plants. Deciduous trees planted on the south side of your

house will provide cooling shade in summer, while letting in the warming rays of sun in winter. A screen of dense evergreens can act as a barrier to cold winter winds.

Harvest the benefits of edible landscaping. Even a 10’ by 10’ plot can produce lots of veggies. Blueberries make an attractive hedge and fruit trees have showy spring blossoms.

Build a good foundation with healthy soil

Take your soil for a test drive. A soil test will tell you if you need to amend the pH or fertility of your soil and how to do it. Urban gardeners may want to have their soil tested for lead as well.

Add organic matter. Whether you garden in heavy clay or sandy soil,

organic matter, such as compost, will improve the capacity of the soil to provide water, air and nutrients to plant roots.

The grass is always greener if you follow these tips for a healthy lawn

Set your mower to cut the grass 2 to 3” high. Weeds will have a harder time getting a foothold in taller grass. Mow frequently enough that you cut off no more than 1/3 the height of the grass blade at each mowing.

Leave grass clippings on the lawn to return nutrients to the soil.

Time your fertilization correctly. Early fall is the best time to fertilize grass in the northern half of the country. Southern grasses benefit most from fertilizer in mid-spring.

Water wisely. Irrigate your lawn

only when it needs it, but water deeply when you do. Frequent shallow waterings encourage grass to develop shallow roots, leaving it more vulnerable to summer heat and competition from weeds. So how do you know when to water? Look at your grass carefully. If you can see your footprints after you walk across the grass, it’s time to give the lawn a drink. If the grass springs back up after you walk on it, wait to water.

MICHAEL C. METALLO
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Lush landscapes start with great lawns

Home repair and maintenance often starts from the ground up. Here’s how you can take your lawn from brown to beautiful.

Brown spots, pests and weeds as big as lettuce. Somehow, you didn’t see them on your lawn when you moved in. But now you’re settled. You’re getting the lay of your land, and you realize that the outside of your home takes as much tending as the inside. Where do you begin?

The truth about mowing

Experts agree that the right mowing style and frequency is key to a great lawn. “Forget the uniform buzz cut,” says Frank Rossi, professor of turf management in Cornell University’s School of Horticulture. “Cutting short means you don’t give the grass enough time to develop the roots it needs. Never cut shorter than two and a half inches.”

Brian Birrenkott, horticulturist and senior director of training for Scotts Training Institute, agrees.

“Mowing longer protects the grass, keeps away those sun burnt brown spots, and enables the grass to flourish despite insects. And when you mow, leave the clippings on the lawn. It composts the lawn and fertilizes it naturally,” said Birrenkott.

The right grass for the right area

Sometimes all you need is spot repair, like pulling weeds here and there, and throwing grass seed and fertilizer on those brown spots. But if you

need a total overhaul, start by choosing the right grass for the right area, and plant seeds specific to the grass you need. “If the kids play in one area all the time, you can put down the seed of high traffic grass,” said Rossi. “If there is a place next to your house where you are not going to mow as often as the other areas, choose a slow growing grass seed.”

Timing is everything

Start major projects in Fall or Spring when it’s not too cold or hot. “Fall is

PAT WADSLY
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DON'T MISS!

The Five S's for new gardeners

Sun

Consider the light needs of your plants. You can choose flowers for either sun or shade. Fruits and vegetables do best in full sun.

Soil

Test your soil to determine its fertility needs. Let soil dry out in spring before working.

Site

Build the garden close to a walkway or house so you're encouraged to visit it frequently.

Size

Start small—100 sq. ft. is a manageable size.

Selection

Grow plants you like! Plant a variety of vegetables, flowers, fruits and herbs.

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New house. New yard. New questions.



- What are all these brown spots on the lawn?
- What height should I set my mower?
- How often should I feed flowers?
- Is that a good bug or a bad bug?
- Is potting mix the same as planting soil?
- If I kill the dandelions, will it kill the grass?
- Do I need to mulch?
- What exactly is aerating, and should I do it?
- What kind of grass seed should I use?
- Do tomatoes grow better in raised garden beds?
- How do I keep ticks out of my yard?

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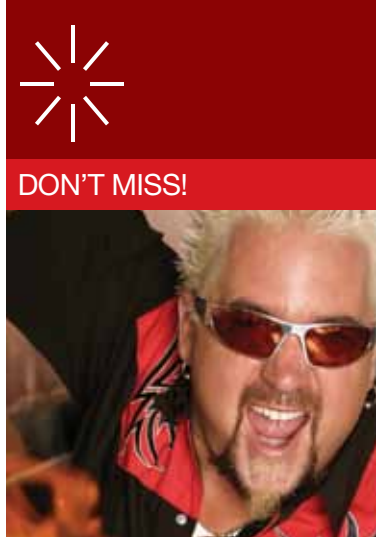
NEWS

TIP
2

USE CHARCOAL



GRILL MASTER
Guy Fieri shares a few tantalizing barbecue tips to enjoy a great cook-out in your new home.
PHOTO: SHERRIE BOLDEN



Guy Fieri's BBQ Essentials:

Having a successful barbeque is all about:

- Having the barbeque in the right location
- Making sure the barbeque is thoroughly clean
- Having quality charcoal
- A chimney starter is absolutely essential
- No lighter fluid: I think that should be outlawed

Guy's "No Boil Summer"

"I'm on a crusade to make this the 'No Boiled Ribs' summer. Boiling ribs before you grill them destroys all the flavor. Instead, take those ribs, and put them on the side away from the direct heat. Cook them that way for about 2 1/2 hours, then wrap them in some foil for about 45 minutes to internalize some of that steam. Then pull them out of the foil, baste them with favorite barbeque sauce and then finish on the direct heat over the coals. You'll end up with delicious, pull-apart ribs with about ten times the flavor of boiled ribs."

RICHARD SHARP
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Diners, Drive-ins and Dives
on the Food Network
Mondays at 10pm and 10:30pm (EST)
Fridays at 9pm and 9:30pm (EST)
Sundays at 3pm and 3:30pm (EST)

amazing." When asked what his favorite style of barbeque is, grilling master Fieri begrudgingly answers, adding, "I'll probably get shot for saying this."

"If I had to have one last bite of barbeque on earth, I would have to say a pulled pork Carolina style BBQ sandwich. For me, it's all about the tang from the vinegar, the sweet creaminess of the pork, and the amazing diversity of flavors," says Fieri.

"Fleets don't work well on the grill when you cook them on their own. But when you cook that whole tenderloin, and you add a little salt and some pepper and then you wrap that bad boy in some bacon, then slice it up from there, the flavor is just really

service, no electricity, nada. I spent most of my summers out there with my Dad, barbecuing on the deck," says Fieri.

Despite having a schedule that feels like a "synchronized ballet," Fieri makes a point to find time to grill out with family.

"Cooking outdoors with your loved ones is what memories are made of. If you have the opportunity to eat some really good food that has been cooked outdoors, where everyone can share in the experience, that's what life is all about."

Mouth-watering pointers

One of Fieri's favorite grilling tech-

■ **Question:** Despite his hectic lifestyle, what is cooking sensation Guy Fieri always sure to find time for?

■ **Answer:** Grilling with his family! It's what "memories are made of."

For Guy Fieri, Food Network star and gregarious host of NBC's "Minute to Win It," the Fourth of July represents his chance to take the family back to his roots—into nature, cooking on the grill.

"As a family—we go up to our cabin in far Northern California to an area called Trinity County, to a cabin I've had since I was a kid. There's no cell

Fire up the grill with Guy Fieri

All Summer Long

Fire up the grill and celebrate summer with these delicious recipes your whole family will enjoy! Hellmann's® is serving up some new ways to prepare juicy chicken skewers and simple summer favorites, made with Hellmann's® Real Mayonnaise.



Chipotle-Lime Chicken Skewers

8 SERVINGS | PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 12 MINUTES

- 1 cup Hellmann's® Real Mayonnaise
- 2 Tbsp. lime juice
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro (optional)
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 tsp. ground chipotle chile pepper or 1 chipotle pepper in adobo sauce, finely chopped
- 2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken thighs, cubed OR boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into thin strips

DIRECTIONS

Combine all ingredients except chicken in a medium bowl; reserve 1/2 cup mayonnaise mixture.

Thread chicken on skewers,* then brush with mayonnaise mixture.

Grill or broil chicken, turning once, 8 minutes or until chicken is thoroughly cooked. Serve chicken skewers with reserved mayonnaise mixture.

*If using wooden skewers, soak in water at least 15 minutes prior to use.



Black Bean & Corn Salsa

4 SERVINGS | PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES

- 1/4 cup Hellmann's® Real Mayonnaise
- 2 Tbsp. lime juice
- 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 can (19 oz.) black beans, rinsed & drained
- 1 can (11 oz.) whole-kernel corn, drained
- 1 cup quartered grape tomatoes or cherry tomatoes
- 1/2 cup chopped red onion
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 tsp. chopped jalapeño pepper (optional)

DIRECTIONS

Combine Hellmann's® Real Mayonnaise, lime juice, and cumin in a medium bowl. Stir in remaining ingredients. Serve chilled or at room temperature.

TIPS & TRICKS

- Brush a thin coat of Hellmann's® Mayonnaise on meat, poultry, seafood and veggies to keep them from sticking to the grill.
- Combine equal parts Hellmann's® Mayonnaise with chunky salsa. Makes a delicious dip for fresh veggies!



5-Minute Coleslaw

8 SERVINGS | PREP TIME: 5 MINUTES

- 1 cup Hellmann's® Real Mayonnaise
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 package (1 lb.) shredded coleslaw mix or 6 cups shredded cabbage

DIRECTIONS

In large bowl, combine Hellmann's® Real Mayonnaise, lemon juice, sugar and salt.

Add coleslaw mix; toss well. Serve chilled or at room temperature.

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PLUS® Elbows Salad with Avocado, Tomato and Mozzarella

INGREDIENTS

- 1 box BARILLA PLUS Elbows
- 2 cups (5 medium) plum tomatoes, diced
- 3 cups (3 whole) avocados, diced
- 2-1/2 cups small fresh mozzarella balls, halved
- 1/2 cup fresh basil, torn
- 1/3 cup plus extra for drizzling extra virgin olive oil
- to taste: salt
- to taste: freshly ground black pepper

BRING a large pot of salted water to a boil.

COMBINE tomatoes, avocados, mozzarella, basil, and olive oil in a large bowl. Season the mixture with salt and pepper and marinate for 20-30 minutes.

COOK PLUS Elbows 1 minute under the lowest cook time on the package. Drain and place pasta onto a flat sheet pan. Drizzle with a small amount of oil and allow to cool.

ADD cooled PLUS Elbows to the mixture in the bowl; toss and serve.



For new ways to prepare your summer favorites, visit hellmanns.com.

NEWS

TIP
3
DON'T THINK BIG



KEEP COOL. SAVE MONEY
A central air-conditioning system may keep you cool, but an energy-efficient system saves you money, adds value to your home and reduces your carbon footprint.

4
BEST TIPS
Start your home improvement project off right by planning what to do with all of the debris:

- 1** First determine which items can be reused or recycled.
- 2** Then size up the items you plan to discard, and choose the right waste removal solution.
- 3** If you're redoing your entire house, you'll need a dumpster. Find and order the right-sized dumpster for your project at dumpster.com.
- 4** If you're remodeling a kitchen or renovating a bathroom, then a Bagster bag is the way to go. It's smaller than a dumpster, but can take on up to 3300 lb of debris. Pick one up at your local home improvement retailer.

TIPS PROVIDED BY WASTE MANAGEMENT

LOOK FOR THE SEAL

When buying a room air conditioner, look for one that has earned EPA's Energy Star. If every room air conditioner in the United States were Energy Star qualified, that would prevent 900 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions annually—equivalent to the emissions from 80,000 cars.

Add insulation to your attic to keep cool air in.

Hire a contractor to seal and insulate the interior ductwork in your home (the ducts you can't reach yourself). For help on choosing the right contractor, go to www.energystar.gov/homeimprovement

TIPS PROVIDED BY ENERGY STAR



PAT WADSLY
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In many homes, almost half of the monthly utility bill goes to heating and cooling the house. And in summer, that figure can get even higher. But you can **beat the heat** without breaking the bank.

STAY COOL AND SAVE

Bigger isn't better when it comes to air conditioning. "A lot of people think you have to buy big room air conditioners or central air conditioning systems to get their home the coldest," says Maria Vargas, spokesperson for the EPA's Energy Star program. "But too-large units can actually reduce effectiveness, creating many on and off cycles which strain the unit and don't do the job." You can make sure you get the right size by looking at the BTUs and measuring your room.

clean your filter regularly. "Check it once a month and replace it if it's dirty," states Vargas, "and the longest your filter should go is three months. A dirty filter makes the unit work harder, increases your costs and can even damage your equipment."

Set it and forget it
Invest in an inexpensive programmable thermostat and set it to work around your family's summer schedule. "Program it for a few degrees higher—such as 78 degrees when no one is home, so your cooling system isn't cooling an empty house," says Vargas. "The thermostat will be set to turn on your air conditioning before

your return so you come back to a comfortably cooled house. "Additionally, keeping your thermostat just two degrees higher than you usually do will lower your bills even further. "The correct use of programmable thermostats can save you about \$180 a year in energy costs," adds Vargas.

Get cooler bulbs
Changing your light bulbs can also reduce your need for air conditioning. Regular incandescents throw off 75 percent more heat than energy compliant bulbs. Check with your local retailer about which energy saving bulbs work for you.

Keep the good air in
Seal all your air ducts so you don't lose any of the cool air, and get a yearly tune up of your equipment like you would with your car. For more information on how to do this and more energy saving tips, go to energystar.gov.

Clean your filter, lower your bill
To keep your system trouble free,

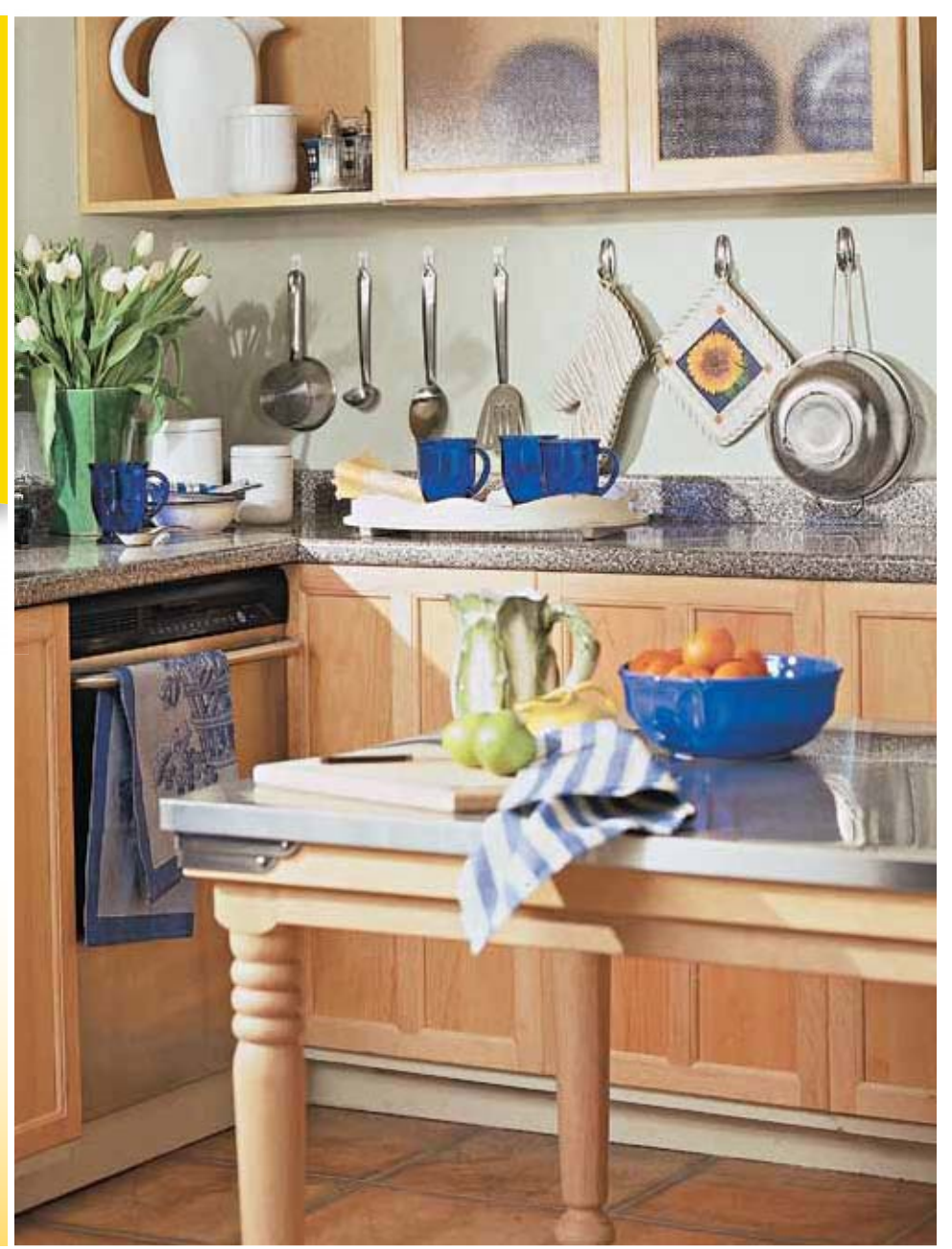
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PANEL OF EXPERTS

	<p>Bill Johnson Business Manager ScotchBlue™ Painters Tape</p>	<p>Brian Birrenkott, PhD Horticulturist The Scotts Training Institute</p>	<p>Lou Manfredini Ace Hardware's Home Expert</p>	<p>Jim Halter Vice President Construction Solutions Waste Management</p>
<p>Question 1: What can you offer someone renovating their home?</p>	<p>Start with a fresh coat of paint to make a big impact at a small cost. To get started, be sure you are prepared with the right tools and techniques. Choosing the proper painter's tape for the right surface, whether smooth or textured, will help you achieve those sharp paint lines—the key to professional looking results. And if you're a DIYer without much experience, consider a tape with a paint line protector for an extra edge.</p>	<p>Get a landscape plan designed by a professional. A good plan makes the work easier, creates an amazing look, and builds a landscape over time. It also saves money—no more buying the wrong plants. Find a good designer at full service garden centers. Some times the fee is waived by purchasing plants from the center. Once you have a plan, simply work it—planting and filling it in as your budget and time allow.</p>	<p>Take some time to walk around your home inside and out, make a to-do list of things that need attention and set due dates for each. I find that knocking out the small ones first really shows progress—tightening loose cabinet knobs and taming unruly shrubs can be quick fixes—and then it's on to the bigger jobs. Remember to be reasonable about what you can handle. There... now it's a "to-done" list!</p>	<p>Before you start your project, think about the waste and debris that will be generated. Having a plan can keep projects moving smoothly, both in terms of cost and time. Identify what can be recycled and reused, and then think about how you will dispose of the remaining material. For larger projects, you will probably need to rent a dumpster. For smaller projects, look into cost-effective alternatives for the job.</p>
<p>Question 2: What is the most important area of your home to invest in?</p>	<p>Whether you are buying, selling or growing as a family, picking the right space for a new coat of paint is an important decision. Consider investing in the most used rooms, like the living room and dining room. Kitchens, bathrooms or kids rooms can also benefit from a painting pick-me-up. Those looking to sell should invest in spaces that need the most updating. Modernizing or neutralizing with a coat of paint is still the most cost-effective project</p>	<p>The front landscape is top priority for a first impression. There are so many different ideas. How much grass do kids and pets need? What about shade trees, smaller unique trees, flowering or fragrant shrubs? How to create a welcoming door area—seasonal color, perennials, colorful annuals, potted plants? If sun is plentiful, maybe a small raised vegetable bed. The front entrance is a long way from plants against the front foundation!</p>	<p>In my opinion, it's the bones of your home that need the most attention: the foundation, mechanical systems, insulation, roofing, siding, etc. While these areas aren't as trendy as the more aesthetic overhaul projects, they add more value when properly addressed and keep your home running smoothly. The added benefit of some of the available tax credits for homeowners can get you a pretty good break on some of these updates.</p>	<p>From a financial and a sustainability standpoint, I recommend areas that help with energy and water efficiency. Redoing a bathroom or kitchen with more efficient and sustainable materials, changing to energy efficient windows, and adding solar panels are examples of projects that can make your home more cost effective as well as better for the environment.</p>
<p>Question 3: What trends do you expect to see in home and garden this summer?</p>	<p>Summer is a great time to tackle painting projects. With longer days and holiday weekends, DIYers can take advantage of the extra time and paint sales, which typically pop up during holiday weekends. To personalize spaces, people are experimenting with unique design treatments like wall frames and chair rails. With inspiration from the season, we suggest using a splash of color like Pantone's 2010 color of the year, Turquoise (PMS 15-5519). For more project ideas, visit ScotchBlue.com.</p>	<p>This summer I know there will be tons of "vine-ripened" tomatoes and vegetables picked from the garden! The explosion in home gardening is amazing! As a horticulturist, I couldn't be happier that people are really "digging" plants. This is one bright spot of the economic downturn—people focused on growing vegetables, herbs and flowers—do-it-yourself lawn & garden in general. And growing plants is good for people and the environment.</p>	<p>In a sense, the struggling economy has helped create a re-birth of DIY. More homeowners are opting to do their own lawn and garden work, while keeping a close eye on the environment. There are countless products out now that use no fossil fuel to run, like battery-operated lawn mowers and garden equipment. Earth-friendly, natural fertilizers have been around forever, but they're gaining in popularity as people trend toward being more eco-conscious.</p>	<p>I expect to see more do-it-yourselfers taking on their own home improvement projects, focusing on smaller upgrades to make homes more energy and water efficient rather than total remodels. These projects instill a sense of pride in a job well done. If you take on your own project this summer, be sure to have your plan in advance for the debris and materials that will need to be recycled or disposed of after the work.</p>

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