

Jackson & Sons's **HOME**sense

Smart & simple ways to enrich your home living.

— IT'S ABOUT TIME! —

Time for A Spring Cleaning Shake Up

Spring is in the air – and so are pollen, dust and a host of other airborne particles. It makes my lungs cover just thinking about it! So, it's no wonder spring cleaning fever strikes at this time of year. But if you're neglecting one very important part of your home, it's time to shake up your spring cleaning routine...



Adding spring TLC to the list for your home's heating and cooling equipment can save you a few headaches and potentially a lot of money. How? A clean unit works more efficiently and reduces the risk of a breakdown. It's simple...

It is time for a change. Begin by replacing the filter. Air will be able to flow more freely through your home after this chore is completed. (We can do this for you – no charge – while we're there for your seasonal tune-up.) You can also...

Stop the invasion. Your backyard jungle could be costing you big. Weeds, bushes and shrubbery that are allowed to grow up and around your unit can end up causing major damage to your system. (And your wallet!) Clearing the area around your unit is a quick way to help protect it for the long term.

Give it a makeover. This means from the inside out. We'll take care of the inside during your seasonal tune-up where your system is cleaned and set to factory specs so you get maximum efficiency for your energy dollars. (Call today to get on the schedule.) Plus...

You don't want to overlook the outside. Scrubbing down your heating and cooling unit doesn't just make it look pretty – it also increases its efficiency, which means energy dollars back in your pocket where they belong.

MY WORD

BY DANNY JACKSON



Hello
Friends,

Are you as ready as I am for a change of scenery? I'm glad to be seeing the signs of spring... brighter landscapes, warmer days and more outdoor activities. But spring also means one other important thing: summer's coming.

As you know, it can get pretty hot when it's here. We don't want any of our friends (some companies call them "customers") to flip the

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Your Quick Call Comfort Hotline:

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— STYLE POINTS —

DIY: The Perfect Room

— MONEY WISE —

For Energy Savings This Coming Summer, Think Outside the... House?

While it's true that there are plenty of things you can do within the walls of your home to save energy, many homeowners aren't aware that the great outdoors can be a huge drain on your monthly energy bills.

To get your energy spending under control, consider these tips:

Sunscreen isn't just for your skin. Outdoor spaces such as porches and patios often allow the sun to overheat your home. In fact, planting trees and shrubs on the sunny side of your house – especially ones that provide a screen for your heating and cooling unit – can help cut your energy costs by as much as 10%.

Seek shade – for your windows and doors that is. Installing outdoor

awnings to block sunlight helps to keep your home cooler during the warmer months.

Saving start at the top. If you're thinking of replacing your roof, reflective materials may be the way to go. When the sun's heat bounces off the roof, the amount of heat entering is reduced.

Install motion sensors on outdoor light fixtures. You won't have to remember to turn them off and they will still discourage unwanted 'guests' during the night.

Bottom Line: Saving energy doesn't stop inside the four walls of your home. It extends to include everything around your home as well. Being aware of outdoor energy wasters – and savers – can keep your cold, hard cash in your wallet where it belongs. For more tips to save energy, give us a call. We're happy to help.

It's true, not everyone can be Michelangelo and paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. But, if you've got the color, a free weekend and your own two hands, there's no reason you can't transform your own home into a DIY masterpiece.



These FAQ's can put you on the path to painting perfection:

What type of paint is best? There are two basic types: oil-based and water-based paint. When painting a room, modern water-based paint

When Older Isn't Wiser...

The older your heating and cooling system gets, the less it knows how to save you money on energy and repairs. Let us come out for a completely FREE, no-obligation survey of your equipment – and show how much a new one could save you.

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— TAKE THAT! (AND THIS TOO!) —

Are You Too Connected?

Smart phones are arguably the greatest inventions since sliced bread. We have banking, shopping, social media, and games literally in the palms of our hands. But is that really a good

thing? Over-use of smart phones can lead to:

Physical injury. From "text neck" (Google it!) to germs, your phone is not necessarily your friend in terms of health.

Emotional disconnect. Eyes glued to the screen during dinner?

A Market Guide for Onions

dries faster, has less odor and has plenty of gloss and wipeability. You'll find it hard to go wrong with a matte or eggshell finish.

How much paint do I need?

The general rule is to use one gallon for every 350 square feet of surface area. Sherwin-Williams.com allows you to type your wall dimensions into their paint calculator. Always buy an extra quart for touch-ups later on.

What about a primer? There is no need for primer unless walls are badly stained, marked up with spackle from patching or you're painting a light color over a dark one.

What's the step-by-step?

- Clean dusty ceiling corners and baseboards.
- Apply painter's tape. Start in a corner and take your time tearing off tape strips (about two feet long).
- Put down drop cloths.
- Before you lift a roller, "cut" all the corners in the room. Roll away!

Know more about your family via Facebook than actual face time? It's time to unplug and rekindle real connections with real people.

Smart phones are a great thing, but they can't take the place of an active life.



An onion by any other name... well, makes a big difference in your cooking. Onion varieties often look very similar and you almost need an endorsement from the Food Network to tell the difference between a Vidalia and shallots. (Are you Googling that right now?) Here's the lowdown on these hearty veggies...

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- **Scallions** – Sweet and fragrant, scallions can be enjoyed raw in salads, thrown into stir-fries or mixed into a tasty dip.
- **Spring Onions** – These young bulbs are typically mellower than other onions. Try grilling, roasting or marinating, or batter and fry away!
- **Ramps** – With an invigorating onion flavor and intense garlic scent, ramps are perfect for serving grilled or chopped and sautéed in eggs. Choose an onion, select a cooking style and enjoy!

— RECIPE —

Twix Bar Brownies

Ingredients

- 1 box brownie mix
- 1 pkg. shortbread cookies
- 1 jar caramel syrup
- 1 jar chocolate syrup
- 1 can non-stick cooking spray



Instructions

Using a boxed brownie mix, follow all instructions for making the brownie batter. Next, layer 1/3 of the batter into the bottom of a greased baking dish (follow

instructions from box for the size of the dish).

Then, crush the shortbread cookies into medium to small chunks and spread half of the shortbread chunks over the first layer of brownies.

After this, pour half of the caramel and half of the chocolate syrup over the shortbread cookies.

Next, pour another 1/3 of the brownie batter on top of the shortbread/syrup. Then, pour the rest of the shortbread, caramel syrup, and chocolate syrup.

Follow all baking instructions for the brownies and serve warm with vanilla bean ice cream.

My Word

...continued from page 1

switch on the first warm day and find your air conditioning system has “forgotten” the basics of keeping you cool.

If you haven't already called us for your pre-season tune-up to make sure your air conditioning system is ready for the heavy load, please do this as soon as possible.

Our job is to make sure our friends are comfortable. Let us know how we can serve you.

Danny Jackson

Danny Jackson

P.S. After you've read your newsletter, please feel free to pass it along to family & friends.

— QUICK TIPS —

Searching for a healthy snack?

Buy your own popping corn seeds. You can microwave your seeds by placing them in a plain brown paper bag. Add a little salt, melted butter and your favorite seasonings for a much healthier snack. Plus, it is much cheaper than the pre-packaged stuff that you find at the grocery store.



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FAST FIX

Do you get tired of reaching for a spray bottle under the sink – and knocking others over as you do? If so, this interesting and innovative tip will help you organize your collection of cleaning products in a limited-space area. Install a tension rod, and hang your spray bottles on the rods.