

Getting Into The Fall Cleaning Mode

After a fun filled summer, it may seem difficult to think about fall cleaning. After all, who wants to be stuck doing chores when it's still nice outside!? Here are a few quick and easy ways to freshen up your home—and get into the fall cleaning mode. The holidays are just around the corner!

❑ **Dust off & store your silk flower arrangements.** Take them outside and gently dust the petals with a new soft paintbrush or unused make-up brush. If you routinely change your flowers according to the seasons, then the easiest way to store them is in twist-tie plastic bags. Hang the bags upside down from a nail in the garage. Label the outside of each bag with the flower name or season (roses, poinsettias, Thanksgiving, etc.) so you'll be able to find the one you want easily without opening each bag.

❑ **Clean your lampshades.** Lampshades attract dust so either use the soft upholstery brush on your hand vacuum or use hand dusters or dust sheets. Wipe in downward strokes from top to bottom. Remember to also clean the light bulbs. Let the bulb cool and wipe with a slightly wet cloth.

❑ **Clean the refrigerator coil.** Usually located at the base of the unit, this is a magnet that attracts dust and pet hair. Remove the grill face and wash with soapy water. Dry it thoroughly. Use the vacuum suction wand to dust the coils, taking care not to push in too hard. Replace the grill front. Before restocking the refrigerator, clean the shelves and storage drawers. Discard any dated items.

❑ **Clean windowsill ledges and shutters.** Vacuum them first or use a dust cloth, then wipe with a household cleaner and cloth towels to remove dirt and dust. After the sills are clean, take down, wash and put back the curtains.

❑ **Spray and wipe down mirrors.** Don't forget the ones located in the living room and bedrooms. They collect just as much dust as the ones in the bathroom.

❑ **Clean & check your fireplace.** Remove all old ashes left behind from last season. Using a short-handled garden trowel or the fireplace equipment shovel, scoop ashes into a bag; use twist-ties to close it and dispose it in the trash.

❑ **Replace the furnace filter.** Not only will it make the unit run more



efficiently, but it also removes dust and allergens trapped there since last season. Make this a twice-a-year habit just like changing the batteries in your smoke detectors!

Now that you've freshened up the inside of your home, you can move on to the outdoor fall cleaning chores! ♦



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Francis Harvey & Sons Makes TOP 500

Francis Harvey & Sons, Inc. Named to TOP 500 List ... & Honored for Marketplace Ethics!

At Francis Harvey & Sons, we would like to take a minute to recognize our employees for their commitment to their job and our customers! The word *team* is used often, but in our business it really is a critical word.

In order to provide our customers with the highest level of service and quality, everyone in our company must be focused on exemplary service to our clients... the receptionist who answers and directs your phone calls, the design consultants who meet with you in your home, the craftsmen who convert dreams and plans to reality, and our customer service specialists who ensure your follow-up care. It is also important to recognize our clients, who trust us enough to open their homes to us.

We are proud to announce that, because of this team effort, we have been named to *Qualified Remodeler's TOP 500*, a ranking of the top 500 remodelers in the country that recognizes significant and sustained success in terms of volume, years in business, industry certifications and memberships, and awards and community service. Through the efforts of our dedicated team and



wonderful clients, Francis Harvey & Sons has garnered spot #101 on the list.

In addition, we have received an Honorable Mention for the Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics from the Better Business Bureau of Central MA (BBB), which recognizes companies for fair, honest and ethical business practices. We are truly proud of this achievement as it recognizes our commitment to our core value of 100% customer satisfaction.♦



Francis Harvey & Sons Featured in September 2007 Issue of Qualified Remodeler magazine.

Digging Deep? Call 8-1-1 First

Did you know that a new, federally mandated FCC designated phone number of 8-1-1 is being implemented to eliminate the confusion caused by multiple "Call Before You Dig" numbers? Now, when you call 811, central call center personnel will notify the appropriate local utility companies, who will send crews to mark underground lines at your home construction site for free.

So, why is this important? A recent survey identified that 50% of American homeowners are "active diggers" but rarely think about the importance of getting their utility lines marked. And

who is an "active digger"? Anyone that digs holes to put up fences or a deck, plants trees, installs lighting in their garden and runs the wires underground...

It makes no difference if you're digging down 3 feet, 4 feet or 18 inches, you need to be safe when you dig. Think of the nightmare if you were to dig and hit an unmarked line. It doesn't cost you anything, but does a lot for your peace of mind, to let the utility company come out and mark the lines. Protect yourself, your family and your neighborhood. Call 8-1-1 before your next digging project!♦



In & About ... Francis Harvey & Sons, Inc.

Francis Harvey & Sons to Sponsor a NEADS Puppy

We are proud to announce that Francis Harvey & Sons is participating in the NEADS (New England Assistance Dog Services) *Name and Sponsor a Service Dog* program.

NEADS of Princeton, MA, is a non-profit organization established in 1976 to train and provide dogs and puppies to assist people who are deaf or physically disabled in leading lives that are more independent at work, at home and at school. These assistance dogs become an extension of their owners and bring security, freedom, independence and relief from social isolation to their human partners.

NEADS trains all breeds of dogs to help people who are deaf or physically disabled live more independently. Most hearing dogs are rescued from animal shelters throughout New England. Breeders throughout the country donate most service dogs, mainly Golden or Labrador retrievers, as puppies. Any dog “with the right stuff” can partner with a person to provide independence and companionship by reducing physical and social barriers. You can learn more about the organization by visiting www.neads.org.

We have sent in our sponsorship papers and our suggested names. Many of our employees and their

families brainstormed to suggest names like *Francis* or *Storm*.

NEADS will notify us when our puppy has arrived and is named. We will get regular updates and photos on his/her progress, and finally an invitation to his/her graduation after two years of hard work.

We are excited about this program and will keep you posted on any new information as we receive it! ♦

We're Giving Away a FREE Book!

We'd like to know if you enjoy receiving our newsletter. Please drop us an email/snail mail with your name, phone #, address and what

you think of our newsletter. We'd appreciate as little as “like it” or “don't” or as much information as you'd like to give us about what kinds of things you'd like to see or any ideas on how we can improve.

As a thank you for your time, we'll pick one name from those who respond to win a copy of a book that we hope you will enjoy—*Home Organizing Workbook: Clearing Your Clutter, Step by Step* (Spiral-bound) by Meryl Starr. Thank you in advance! ♦

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Ladder Safety Tips

With the onset of fall and the “fall cleaning” chores it brings, chances are good that you or someone in your family may climb a ladder. Don't take chances—a fall from a ladder can be serious or even fatal.

Here are some ladder safety tips designed to keep you from becoming a statistic:

- ❑ Before using the ladder, inspect it for defects such as broken rungs or rails. If it can't be fixed, get rid of it.
- ❑ Don't set the ladder up on a muddy surface. Don't use bricks or other material to raise the height of the ladder.

- ❑ When using extension ladders, abide by the 1:4 rule—if you're using a 12-foot ladder, the base should be 3-feet from the structure. When using a stepladder, make sure the folding cross braces are locked before you step onto it.
- ❑ Remember the 3-Point Rule—at least two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand, should be in contact with the ladder at all times. ♦





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“Serving the Massachusetts Area for Over 80 Years”

“Green” Bulbs Save Money

Want to go “green” but afraid to start big? Perhaps the easiest and least expensive way to help the environment is to begin by replacing the bulbs in five of the most frequently used fixtures in your home with compact fluorescent (CFL) light bulbs.

Many CFLs last five years and use only 16 watts of energy, but they produce light comparable to a 60-watt incandescent bulb. Over the life of the CFL, you can expect to save between \$26-\$30 in electricity costs—replacing five bulbs can save you more than \$60 a year in energy costs! And since CFLs can last up to 13 times longer than standard incandescent light bulbs, you won't have to replace them as frequently—making them ideal for use in hard to reach fixtures.

FACT: If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an Energy Star qualified bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars.

FACT: You save about \$30 or more in electricity costs over each bulb's lifetime. The average U.S. household has 45 light bulbs; replacing that number of 75-watt incandescent bulbs with CFLs would save \$180 per year.

FACT: CFL bulbs produce about 75% less heat, so they're safer to operate

and can cut energy costs associated with home cooling.

You **CAN** make a difference! ♦



One last note: CFLs must be disposed of properly. According to the EPA, CFLs contain a small amount of mercury (an average of five milligrams), which increases the bulb's efficiency, but means that it must be disposed of properly—ideally, recycled. Many national retailers have recycling centers in their stores where you can take old CFL bulbs back for recycling. Or visit EARTH911.org and type in “CFL” and your city/state to find a recycling center near you.