

How to Make Your Home the **ULTIMATE HAVEN** from the Florida Heat

Neighborly is a local network of home service brands that will connect you to specific, vetted local experts. Our family of service professionals works with rigorous quality standards to repair, maintain and enhance your home.

Neighborly brands can help get your home—and you—ready to handle the Florida summer heat. With pros living in your community, scheduling is quick and convenient.

FIX IT UP

Examine Washer Hoses

Summer is a time of activity, which can lead to larger piles of laundry to take care of. Make sure your washing machine is fully prepared to handle the increase in loads. Check the hoses first. Are they cracked, bulging or leaking? If your washing machine uses rubber hoses, this is a particular concern.

Maximize Ventilation and Comfort

Rotate ceiling fans counterclockwise to push air down, improving circulation and creating a wind-chill effect to keep you and your family cooler. Turning on your kitchen or bathroom fans or adding an attic fan can also help pull heat out of your home.

Install or Repair Insulation

Proper insulation will prevent the summer heat from transferring into your garage, and then into your home. Polystyrene insulation effectively blocks heat. It also stops cool air from getting out of the structure. Insulation helps improve the interior comfort and energy efficiency of your home while resisting moisture entry and preventing mold.

Clean Your AC Unit

A dirty condenser (AC outside unit) should be cleaned by a professional technician to allow greater airflow and distribution across the coil. A service technician can also oil the motors and check the refrigerant charge and electrical components for safety hazards. A system tune-up also promotes less energy usage and greater indoor air quality.

Maintain Outdoor Appliances

If you have an outdoor kitchen or you're thinking about adding one, make sure you take care of your outdoor appliances. Summer heat and humidity can negatively impact outdoor appliances such as grills, refrigerators, and dishwashers. To ensure everything runs smoothly, it may be necessary to seek help from a professional.

Protect Yourself and Your Family

Make sure your home has smoke and fire alarms installed. Three out of five home fire deaths happen from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Test them every month to make sure they work properly. Homes should also have fire extinguishers on hand, and those living in the property should know how to use them.

KEEP IT FRESH

Prepare for Parties

The warm weather brings family reunions, pool parties and summer barbecues; all of which require a clean home for hosting. The sooner the cleaning task is tackled, the quicker the house is ready for summer entertainment with friends and family. In the summer, the traffic level in your home often increases. A simple nylon mat will catch a surprising amount of dirt. Put one at each doorway, especially where people enter the most.

Protect Plants with Mulch

Keeping your plants healthy during the summer means using lots of mulch and deep, infrequent watering methods. Mulch helps keep moisture from evaporating, so plants have time to use it. Mulch should be about two to three inches thick in most garden beds.

Use Ceiling Fans

Fans can be useful for homeowners looking to stay cool in the summer heat, reduce energy usage and save money. Fans do not cool the air in your home, but they can circulate the air and help you feel cooler. Calling a professional inspector to check your home for energy efficiency, recommend additional efficiencies and provide a visual inspection of your ceiling fans and other household systems is a good idea.

Install Window Film

When trying to save money, cranking up the air-conditioning can be impractical, especially as the blistering summer sun is working against you. Investing in a window film installation can be the perfect solution to keep your home's interior cool on hot summer days. Window film can also save money on air conditioning costs and keep your family safe from boiling indoor temperatures.

Clean Dryer Vents

Dryers use the most energy of household appliances, and clogged vents only make them work harder and pose a higher risk of a dryer fire. To save money on your energy bill and prevent dangerous fires, have a professional clean your vents and provide a safety inspection.

Utilize Bug Prevention Outdoors

Mosquitoes are a major source of aggravation for everyone, especially when the warm summer months roll around. No one wants to be outside if they're going to be a snack for hungry mosquitoes. That's why keeping your backyard bug-free is a great way to encourage your family to enjoy outside activities.

MAKE IT SING

Paint Your Deck

With summer in full swing, an outdoor deck provides the ideal place for relaxation, entertainment and other events. Similar to any outdoor surface that endures years of active use and exposure to extreme weather conditions, your deck may need some TLC. A fresh coat of paint or stain and the right color will do wonders!

Install Double-Pane Windows

Insulated glass units (IGUs), or double pane windows, consist of two panes, creating an air pocket that serves to diffuse heat transfer and better insulate your home. These windows also reduce noise pollution, which is especially valuable in urban areas. Double pane windows work with your air conditioning, not against it, to ensure you're getting your money's worth!

Repair or Replace Caulk

Heat bears down and can dry out caulk, creating cracks. Cracks in your caulk around windows and doors can lead to air and water leaks that can create costly utility bills. To avoid future damage, have a professional inspect and repair exterior caulk every six months.

Stock Your Pantry

When the kids are home and hungry, or you're working through lunch at home, having a stocked and organized pantry is a treat. To keep things organized in your pantry, hire a professional to install glide-out shelving. At a quick glance, you and your family can find everything you need.

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