

■ Good Hands® Advice

Tips to help you be prepared and informed



Get Organized this Spring

There is no better time than spring to organize your home and give it a thorough cleaning. Clutter in the home can lead to many issues including fire hazards, excessive mould, or attracting animals such as mice. Follow these tips to create a safer and clutter-free home.

Set a goal

Know what you would like to accomplish by the end of the day, whether it is cleaning out a drawer, closet or room.

Donate unused items

If you haven't used something in over a year, you probably won't miss it if it's gone - this includes items such as clothing, shoes, electronics, DVDs and books. Donate usable items to local charities or consider holding a garage sale and donate the money earned to a charity of your choice.

Dispose of sensitive documents carefully

Never just throw away bills, credit card statements or old tax documents. The information on these materials is sensitive and could make you a victim of identity theft if they fall into the wrong hands. Make sure documents with personal information are shredded and disposed of properly.

Consider using a storage unit

If you have a lot of things you simply can't part with, consider renting a storage unit. But, it's important to note that items in a storage unit are only insured by a typical homeowner policy for a period of 30 days. After 30 days, the items are only covered for theft, not other losses such as fire or water damage. Before you get the unit, speak to your insurance agency and the storage facility manager about insurance coverage for your belongings.

Go through items on a regular basis

To keep your newly organized space clean, keep on top of it. When you acquire something new, get rid of another item you no longer use.

Protect your items and your home

Batteries in your fire alarm should be changed twice a year. Pick two memorable dates six months apart such as daylight savings time. If you haven't recently changed the batteries, take the time to change them this spring.

Don't forget the outside of your home

Warmer weather makes it an opportune time to inspect and clear debris from gutters. It's also a great time to check other potential trouble areas including roofs, windows and skylights. Look for cracks in bricks, caulking and the home's foundation to nip potential problems in the bud.

For more helpful tips and advice, visit allstate.ca/learningcentre, contact your local Allstate Insurance Agency or call 1-800-allstate.

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