

MAFES Dawg Tracks

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

Spring Cleaning

After many dreary days of rain and slop, it's nice to see some blue sky with hints of warmer weather on the horizon. Along with the changing weather comes a renewed desire to get outside, and maybe even do a little spring cleaning inside too.

Use this checklist as a guide to keep safety in mind while spring cleaning your home.

✓ **Replace Your Filters**

Indoor air can be up to five times more polluted than outdoor air — especially during the winter when we trap our indoor air inside with us. To help improve your indoor air quality, air out your house while spring cleaning, and clean or replace the filters on your air conditioning unit and furnace, as well as your dryer, vacuum, range hood, and refrigerator.

✓ **Test the Batteries in Your Smoke Detectors**

To verify your smoke detectors are in good working condition, test each one individually. Ask a family member to stand as far away as possible from the detector you are testing — then press and hold the test button on the detector. If it doesn't let out an alarm loud enough for your assistant to hear, change the batteries (at least once a year) and test it again. If it still doesn't work, replace the detector as soon as possible.

✓ **Check Your Carbon Monoxide Detectors**

You should have a carbon monoxide detector outside every room and on every level of your home, and check the batteries in each one every month. The gas sensors in CO detectors have a limited lifespan — and the test button tests only the battery, not the sensor — so replace or recalibrate your detectors at least every five years, even if the detector still beeps when you push the test button.

✓ **Clean Out the Medicine Cabinet**
Properly dispose of all expired and unused medications in your home.

✓ **Update Your First Aid Kit**
Check your first aid kit and emergency kit and replace any missing or expired items. Make sure you have all the essentials, including bandages, water, and emergency phone numbers

✓ **Check Your Fire Extinguishers**
Every home should have at least one fire extinguisher in an easy-to-access location. Make sure you check the expiration date on your fire extinguishers and be sure the pressure needle is in the green area.

✓ **Clear any debris off your roof and check your gutters for proper drainage to avoid flooding.**

✓ **Trim back dead trees and shrubs before they can fall and cause injuries and carefully trim back any branches that have grown too close to electrical wiring. Clear overgrown plants from walkways and reposition any dislodged stepping stones or other garden decorations to avoid tripping hazards.**

✓ **Clean out the chimney to help reduce the risk of fire as well as carbon monoxide buildup.**

✓ **Clean the globes on your outdoor light fixtures, you will first want to remove any debris and cobwebs and use a soft cloth to clean off metal of plastic components. Check your bulbs and wiring to them.**

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