



Suzanne Pelkey

REALTOR, CRS

01512847

Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

8305 Prunedale North Road, #117

SALINAS, CA 93907

Phone: 831-206-3359

Fax: 831-626-2220

Ring in Spring With Our April Home Maintenance Checklist

by homewarranty.com

April is the perfect month to get your home ready for warmer weather ahead. The days are longer and entice us to freshen up our homes, both inside and out.

De-clutter - Create more room in your home by getting rid of unwanted items from your kitchen cabinets and closets throughout your home. This is a perfect opportunity to have a garage sale or contact a local charity organization. Getting rid of clutter helps you feel more organized and less frazzled when it comes time to find things.

Make Your Windows Shine - Spring clean your windows inside and out using a window cleaning solution and a squeegee or a soft cloth. Avoid using high-pressure spray washers as they may chip caulking or damaged screens. If your windows have screening, remove the screens and clean those as well.

Check Your Foundation - Take a walk around the exterior of your home this month and examine your home's foundation. Check for cracks in the masonry and loose tiles.

HVAC Check-up - Have your HVAC system tuned up before the arrival of warm weather. Hire a trained professional for the inspection and maintenance. Maintaining your HVAC system all year can save you from unexpected emergency repairs at very inconvenient times.

Inspect Your Roof - Winter rain and snow can damage shingles and create possible roof leaks. Your first inspection can be done safely from the ground using a pair

of binoculars. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, about 500,000 people are injured in ladder-related accidents each year. If you spot roof damage, hire a professional for roof repairs.

Clean Your Gutters - It's important to clean your gutters and downspouts out after each winter. Clogged gutters and downspouts can cause eaves to rot, and rotted eaves can invite a new set of problems like wood rot and insect infestation. Properly maintained gutters and downspouts should divert water away from your home and its foundation.

Check for Termites - The beginning of spring is a great time to check for signs of termites. Keep an eye out for these winged insects. Termites swarm in the spring, so if you spot swarms of winged insects flying out of a hole in the woodwork, it's probably termites. Contact a licensed professional pest control company for an evaluation.

Your Sprinkler System - Make sure your sprinkler system is operational before the hot weather hits. Run your system through all zones and walk your property to inspect your system. Make sure there are no broken or damaged heads. Adjust sprinkler heads that hit your house, windows, porches, and sidewalks.

Spruce Up Your Garage - Take an afternoon to get your garage in order. Stow boxes onto shelves, hang bicycles, or other sports equipment on hooks if possible. Get outdoor furniture out of storage and ready to use.

Let's face it. It's been a long hibernation for your family. It's time to ring in spring. Grab our to-do list, check off a few chores, then kick back and enjoy the beautiful weather ahead.

April Calendar

April 1 - April Fool's Day

April 4 - Easter Sunday

April 15 - Tax Day

April 22 - Earth Day

April 19 is National Garlic Day

Homeowner Tip:



Keep Pests Away This Spring

April brings warmer temperatures, and warmer temperatures bring insects. Spring is the time of year when insects begin to hatch around your yard and home. Check for cracks in your siding, around your windows, and even your roof, and make sure you properly seal them. A little work now can prevent pests like ants, silverfish, and termites from making your home, their home.

Upgrade Your Landscape: Quick Tips to Help You Sell

One of the first things a potential home buyer notices is curb appeal. Don't underestimate your home's landscaping when it comes to attracting buyers. Begin the process of cleaning up your landscaping about a month before you begin showing your house. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

1. Spruce up your outdoor containers with fresh plants or flowers that add a splash of color to the front of your house.
2. Touch up your mulch. Mulch fades over time. Refreshing mulch around trees and

flower beds can bring instant life to your front yard.

3. Use a critical eye on your hedges and trees and shape them if necessary.
4. Install outdoor lighting. Low-voltage landscape lighting is affordable and makes a serious impact on your home's curb appeal.
5. Paint your front door. Potential home buyers love a freshly painted front door. According to Zillow, this one upgrade can add thousands of dollars to a home's final sale price. Which door colors create the greatest increase in a home's value? Jet black and charcoal gray.



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Garlic Lemon Butter Salmon

Here's the perfect way to celebrate National Garlic Day. This is a simple, foil-wrapped, no mess, salmon recipe with a delicious garlic lemon butter sauce.

Ingredients

- 1 lb salmon fillet
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 1/2 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 3 dashes cayenne pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- Sliced lemon for garnishing

Directions

Preheat oven to 400F.

In a small bowl, mix the garlic, lemon juice, honey, butter, cayenne pepper and salt together. Whisk to combine well.

Rinse the salmon with cold water and pat dry with paper towels. Transfer the salmon to a big sheet of aluminum foil and drizzle the garlic lemon butter mixture on the salmon. Coat well. Top with parsley. Wrap the salmon up tightly and bake for 20 minutes or until the salmon is cooked through.

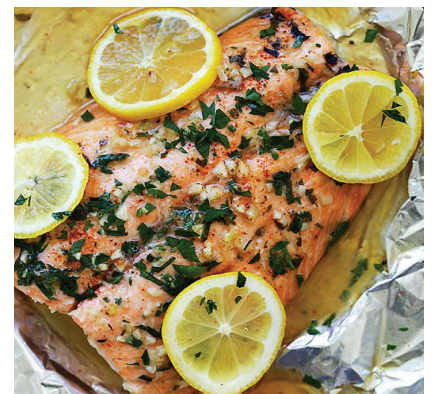


Photo & recipe courtesy of: rasamalaysia.com