

Jefferson County Safety Toolbox Talk

TOPIC: Home Spring Cleaning Safety Tips

Overview: It's been a long winter and items pile up. As the weather starts to change many homeowners start to think about spring cleaning. Here are some safety tips:

- Household chemicals such as pool chemicals, paints, and poisons should be properly marked and stored under lock and key, away from children and pets. Dispose of any that are leaking, expired, or that look or smell bad.
- Never mix chemicals in the same container if you don't know how to dispose of them, seek outside advice. Never put them into the trash or pour down the drain. Utilize your county's "Clean Sweep" program if available.
- When cleaning up hazardous chemicals wear rubber gloves and safety glasses or goggles and follow the safety directions on the packaging.
- Make sure gasoline and cleaning fluids are well marked and stored in a cool, dry place away from the house and out of the reach of children and pets. Use only approved containers for gasoline storage.
- Never use gasoline to clean skin, clothes, auto parts, or floors.
- Clean up work areas. Put dangerous tools, adhesives, matches, or other work items away from children's reach.
- Check your barbecue grill for leaks and cracks, and be sure to store any propane tanks away from your house and garage. Also check to see if any "critters" have not moved in.
- Remove all fire hazards, including stacks of rags, newspapers, and magazines. Pay special attention to the spaces around your furnace, hot water tank, fireplace, space heaters, and dryer, as well as under the stairs.
- If cleaning gutters, make sure you have the appropriate sized ladder. (Please see Jefferson County's Safety Toolbox Talk on Portable ladders)
- If you go up on the roof, stay at least 3 feet from the roof edge. Be aware of any weak spots on the roof.
- If using power blowers to move leaves or other debris, check your surroundings so that you do not blow stuff towards other people or pets.
- Check other outdoor power equipment such as lawnmowers, chippers, rotor tillers etc. for:
 - Gas
 - Oil
 - Belts are not worn
 - Wheels are in good condition
 - Blades are on tight
- If using an outdoor fire pit to burn leaves and twigs, do not use gas or other flammables to start the fire. (Please see Jefferson County's Safety Toolbox Talk on Fire Pit Safety)
- Make sure whatever job you are doing; always remember to wear personal protective equipment such as gloves, safety eyewear and hearing protection. We want you to be safe at work and at home.
- **AND REMEMBER:** Watch out for children, grandchildren and pets.