



NEWS - March 2012

## 10 Autumn Spruce up Tips for your Home

As we move into Autumn, we don't really think 'spring clean' or 'summer fun', but that doesn't mean that Autumn can't be a great time to brighten up your home. Here are some helpful tips for sprucing your home up this Autumn.

- 1) Rake up dead leaves in your garden, patio, or outdoor living area. The romance of falling autumn leaves is nice but they can be unsightly when they've accumulated for long periods of time.
- 2) Even with rainfall in most parts of the country, you should remember to keep the garden watered, and fertilising will help them survive the elements.
- 3) Clean out gutters to prevent mould and moss growing (which are even less fun to get rid of) and also to help prevent flooding during heavy rains.
- 4) Stack firewood in a dry accessible place, but not too close to your house so to avoid attracting pests, bugs and white ants.
- 5) Dust around door frames, window frames, blinds and shutters. It doesn't seem like much, but it can take away that stale smell and benefits your health.
- 6) Give the garage some attention by going through

and sorting out stored things. It's cleansing, rewarding and may free up room for the car!

- 7) Attend to odd jobs that were put off during summer. You may be surprised at just how quickly you can achieve good results.
- 8) Pressure spray the driveway and footpaths to give them a new lease on life. Hold the nozzle further away to avoid chipping paint.
- 9) Clean out the fridge freezer, and pantry to make way for new groceries like soups and autumn vegetables.
- 10) Set up your patio heater and outside entertaining area so that it can be used in colder weather and enjoy the outdoors all year round!

Autumn isn't traditionally the time of year that people get out and clean or tidy their properties, but it can make a world of difference to you and your family, especially as the weather changes with the season.



## Accurate Home Appraisals

If you're looking to sell, sometimes you'll ask yourself "how do I know that I'm getting an accurate home appraisal?". Even with multiple agents coming to assess your property, you may find fluctuations in their evaluations.

A good real estate agent will talk you through their process of appraising your property. Some of the things that they should include in their evaluation include:

1. Previous sales in the area of similar properties in similar streets.
2. The current trends or mood of the buying public based on the overall area, not just their office's experience.
3. Council regulations or changes in zoning and local planning.
4. Local housing and infrastructure developments in the area.
5. Changes in the community and population demographics.
6. The potential of your property and whether it needs updating or improving.

All of these factors can influence a property's appraisal price so if you're not sure what your property appraisal is based on, ask your agent for more details. You want to choose an agent based on their knowledge and dedication to selling your property, not based on the fact they have the highest listing price or lowest commission rate.

We think we have the goods to be able to appraise and sell your home, so why not give us a try by contacting your local Professionals - visit [www.professionals.com.au](http://www.professionals.com.au)



## Earth hour 2012

If you haven't heard of Earth Hour yet, now's the time to get on board. Earth Hour is a world-wide event that takes place here in Australia on Saturday March 31 at 8:30pm, when hundreds of landmark buildings from around the world will be switching their lights off in the name uniting people across the world to protect the planet...

With over 5000 cities in 135 countries participating in Earth Hour, you can expect to see the lights on iconic buildings in just about any locality. WWF (World Wide Fund) hopes to encourage all Australians to get involved, and show their support for the cause by registering online at their website [www.earthhour.com.au](http://www.earthhour.com.au), and throw an 'Earth Hour Unplugged' event in your neighbourhood.

Earth Hour isn't about just saving energy in that one hour; it's about raising awareness for energy conservation that will hopefully inspire people to think more about their energy habits.

So on the last Saturday of March 2012 at 8:30pm, why not turn off your lights and non-essential appliances, and enjoy a bit of peace by the light of a candle or two. Or join your neighbours in an 'unplugged' street party.



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