

Spring Cleaning 101

Tips and tricks to get the home Spring-ready, safely

Rising temperatures and melting snow mean that Spring has finally sprung. For many Ontarians this marks the beginning of the ultimate chore season: spring cleaning. Before you grab the cleaning supplies and spring into action, step back and think about what safety measures to take when cleaning up the house – inside and out.

“When it comes to maintaining your home after a long winter, safety is key,” says Doug Crawford, Chief Public Safety Officer for the Electrical Safety Authority. “It’s important to stay aware of electrical hazards, particularly overhead and underground powerlines, when planning your spring cleaning and yard work. Taking the appropriate precautions can help to avoid tragic accidents.

Follow these safety tips during your spring cleanup:

Look up, look out: Whether you are clearing out the eaves troughs, painting the exterior of your house or trimming the trees, remember to look out for electrical safety hazards, such as overhead powerlines. Know where powerlines run across your property and avoid working closely around them. Also, carry your ladder horizontally. It’s easier on your back and is safer when working around powerlines.

Think before you dig: You spent all winter dreaming about your new back deck. But before you start digging, know the hazards. Check with your local electricity distribution or utility company to mark where underground wires, gas and water mains are located and plan where to dig accordingly.

Plan before you update: Doing home renovations this spring? Be sure to plan ahead and know the safety risks associated with doing work in the home. If you’re planning to do the work yourself, remember you’ll need a permit from the Electrical Safety Authority. To keep you and your family safe, hire a licensed electrical contractor to do the electrical work.

For more tips on how to stay safe during your spring cleanup please visit: www.esasafe.com.