

Detroit At Home News

THIS WEEKEND'S **TOP 5** Be a hero at home, get it all done...

1 **Install a Fire Pit**
[Read It](#) | [Do It](#) | [Hire It](#)

4 **Clean Your Carpets**
[Read It](#) | [Do It](#) | [Hire It](#)

2 **Wage a War on Weeds**
[Read It](#) | [Do It](#) | [Hire It](#)

5 **Childproof Your Home**
[Read It](#) | [Do It](#) | [Hire It](#)

3 **Tune up Your Lawn Equipment**
[Read It](#) | [Do It](#) | [Hire It](#)

NEWS FEATURES

CAMPFIRE'S BURNING . OR MAYBE NOT - KNOW THE LOCAL RULES AND REGULATIONS OF HOME FIRE PITS



Fire in the hole! Well it could be in your fire pit during these Michigan summer evenings if you're lucky enough to live in an area that allows you to have outdoor fires. It would be a wise move to inquire about your local firehouse rules before getting wild delusions about incorporating a fire feature in your backyard living space.

Outdoor fire rules vary from county to county across Southeast Michigan and it appears the more expensive the area, the less likely you are able to enjoy some rustic outdoor campfires.

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WAGING A WAR ON WEEDS IS NOT A PART-TIME JOB

Many of us spend some serious time trying to rid our lawns and flower beds of the proverbial thorn in our side -- the weed. And according to one specialist, the best time to launch an attack on this garden enemy is . all the time.

"At this time of year, weeds seem to be growing in abundance, and for those that have invaded your flower beds, simple mechanical removal is the only real effective treatment. A little weeding every weekend will do more than



PAINTING A TRUE PICTURE OF THE COST OF PAINTING



Hire It DoneT Host
Adam Helfman

Summer brings us a time for fresh air, fresh growth and a fresh coat of paint. And one of the easiest do-it-yourself projects out there is painting. At least people think it is. A professional paint job has more to it than meets the eye. Here are some things to consider.

By the time you buy the paint, brushes, rollers, scrapers, drop cloths, painter's tape, and especially if you rent a paint sprayer, you're getting pretty

you realize," said Ron Calhoun, environmental turfgrass specialist at Michigan State University.

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EVEN YOUR GARDENING TOOLS NEED SOME SUMMER TLC



Now that your yard has sprung into life, is the weekly grass mowing taking its toll on your lawn equipment?

Ross Sears of Haig's Mower Equipment in Detroit suggests that even if you have adequately winterized your mower and trimmer, some preparations are best left until the beginning of the lawn maintenance season. "The basic start-up maintenance for your equipment is to change any spark plugs, get new air filters, and, if you haven't already done so, burn off as much of last year's gas as possible," he said. This can be done at any point during the season when you feel your mower and other gas-powered tools are flagging.

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DON'T SWEEP CARPET MAINTENANCE UNDER THE RUG

Dirt trails are great for motor bikes and ATVs but not for your carpet. Getting rid of them will not only give your carpet a fresh, clean look but will also extend its life.

"It's not just the soils you see but the sand and grit that gets caught in the fibers and increases the wear in your carpet," said Ken Snow, president of Hagopian Cleaning Services in Oak Park.



How often carpets should be cleaned depends upon how many people live in a home - especially children and pets.

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THERE'S MORE HOME CHILDPROOFING TOOLS OUT THERE THAN EVER BEFORE



Babies and toddlers learn about their surroundings and how things work by exploring through touching, tasting, pulling, tugging, opening and closing. They also can't conceptualize or anticipate danger. As soon as babies get mobile, it's time for moms and dads - and even grandmas, grandpas, uncles and aunts - to childproof their homes.

close to the cost of hiring a professional painter. Then you need to factor in the cost of your time. Give yourself an hourly wage. Also, take into consideration that painters work faster than homeowners. A job that takes a painter three days to complete might take a homeowner three weeks. If there's a savings, I'm willing to bet it's negligible.

One of the biggest and costliest mistakes do-it-yourselfers make is picking a color without trying out a small sample, and buying five or 10 gallons of paint that turns out to be a tint, shade or final color that's not exactly what they expected. It's difficult for a do-it-yourselfer to put a cost on changing the color or having the dissatisfaction of living with it.

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REAL ESTATE NEWS ONLINE
REALVIEW

Next Week in WWJ's RealView, the newsletter for Real Estate professionals and those who want to know more about the market:

First impressions are sometimes made before curb appeal enters the picture. Are roads driving buyers away from instead of to homes in Michigan?

Some creative sellers are using non traditional Internet methods to market their homes. Find out if they work.

Sign Up to receive RealView weekly in your e-mail at www.realviewnl.com.

Mary Targosz, the past president of the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, recommended stocking up on and installing number of baby-proofing items, such as [door knob covers](#); [stove guards](#); [appliance](#) and toilet latches; [plug guards](#); [stair](#), doorway and [hearth gates](#); and [cabinet and drawer locks](#).

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