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Real Estate Pride in Ownership!

Why Tune Up?

There are a number of benefits, for you and the environment, you can get with some simple annual mower maintenance, including:

- Extending the life of your equipment
- Reducing fuel consumption up to 30%, conserving natural resources
- Reducing emissions up to 50%, which protects the environment
- Restores your horsepower by 7.5%
- Improves the start-ability of your engine



How To Tune Up ...

A tune up, whether you do it yourself or have someone do it for you, is a simple, easy way to extend the life of your engine.

- Check oil level regularly: fill to mark on dipstick. **DO NOT OVERFILL.**

- Change oil after first 5 hours of use, then after every 50 hours or at the beginning of the season.
- Replace air cleaners at least once a season with original parts, more often under dusty conditions.
- Use clean, fresh, lead-free gas.
- Do not mix oil with gas.
- Use any stored fuel within 30 days, to prevent stale gas
- Drain engine oil & refill.
- Pour 1/2oz (14ml), oil into spark plug hole.
- Replace spark plug and crank engine slowly.
- Clean dirt & grass from engine and store in clean, dry area.
- If engine is equipped with a PRIMER, make sure engine is properly primed, or if engine is equipped with a CHOKE, make sure choke plate is fully closed.
- Carburetor choke plate must be fully open in RUN or FAST position.

It can be easy with a maintenance kit provided by most dealers, and they may even show you how.

Celebrate Cyclamen Brighten your indoor view with vibrant cyclamen. This popular houseplant has attractive heart-shaped foliage and pink, red, lavender, and white blooms. Here's how to keep your cyclamen dazzling all season long:



- Choose carefully. Select a plant with only a few flowers open, flower stems that stand straight up, and many buds tucked underneath the foliage.
- Keep cool. Keep temperatures around 65°F during the day, and place the plant in a humid spot with bright, indirect light.
- Don't overwater. Keep potting mix moist but not soggy. The plant's crown and foliage are susceptible to fungal rot if too wet, so water from the bottom. Set the pot in a saucer of water for several minutes or until the plant absorbs the water—do not let water stand in the saucer.
- Fertilize. About a month after you get your cyclamen, fertilize it with a water-soluble fertilizer mixed half strength. Continue every three to four weeks. Overfeeding is more likely to produce foliage than flowers.
- Remove spent flowers. Deadhead your cyclamen to encourage more flowering, and remove yellow leaves.

Don't let the color fade - re-bloom your cyclamen and enjoy it all over again!



Your Link to Local Savings

Have you recently moved or are you moving? Receive a Welcome Wagon gift that includes a free address book and coupons for merchants in your neighborhood.

Visit:

www.homestore.com/shop/WelcomeWagon/default.asp?source=a4brfhht082

Tips for Better Bulbs

Spring-flowering bulbs such as daffodils signal the arrival of a new gardening season. Here's how to care for your hardy bulbs so you can enjoy their wonderful show of color year after year:



1. Remove faded flowers to prevent the plant's energy from going to seed production.
2. When foliage is still green and flowers start to decline, sprinkle a handful of fertilizer around bulbs and water well.
3. Don't remove foliage until it yellows and withers. Leaves help bulbs build strength for next year's blooms, so the longer foliage lasts, the better the bulbs will grow the following year. After foliage has yellowed—sometimes as late as July—you can safely cut it off at ground level.
4. Replace and divide. After three or four years, some hardy bulbs start to crowd each other and don't bloom well.
5. Store healthy, large bulbs in a dry, cool, well-ventilated room—out of direct sunlight—until fall planting time, or replant in a flower bed with plenty of organic matter and adequate room to grow.

How you know you're living in the 21st Century



1. You just tried to enter your password on the microwave.
2. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
3. You call your son's beeper to let him know it's time to eat. He emails you back from his bedroom, "What's for dinner?"
4. You chat several times a day with a stranger from South Africa, but you haven't spoken with your next door neighbor this year.
5. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 years of your life, is cause for panic and turning around to go get it.
6. Using real money, instead of credit or debit, to make a purchase would be a hassle and take planning.
7. Your idea of being organized is multiple-colored Post-it notes.

If your property is currently listed with a Realtor, please disregard this notice, as it is not my intention to solicit the offerings of other Brokers. This information has been furnished by sources deemed reliable and has not been verified by the broker/agent. All persons should independently verify the accuracy of the reported information.

First Aid KIT

There are ready made first aid kits available at all types of stores, but some people like to make up their own kits, so with this in mind, we have put together some items you might like to include in your first-aid kit:

1. **First Aid Book** - Clearly explains how to handle basic problems
2. **Band-Aids** - Make sure the Band aid is big enough to cover the wound, if not you should use a dressing instead
3. **Elastic Bandages** - The elastic bandages are good for wrapping sprained joints or making a sling in the case of a broken arm
4. **Gauze and Adhesive Tape** - Gauze pads are placed directly on a wound to protect and control bleeding (for larger cuts and scrapes)
5. **Antiseptic Wipes** - (Alcohol Swaps) and Cotton Wool
6. **Safety Pins, Tweezers & Scissors**
7. **Small Mirror and Latex Gloves**
8. **Calamine Lotion** - used for soothing sunburns and stings
9. **Thermometer & Aspirin** - Pain reliever
10. **Candles & Matches**



Isn't home equity just paper profit?

No. While appreciation may boost your equity to far more than you have paid on your home so far, it is more than just paper profit. You may need to rely heavily on the equity you have in your current home to help you buy your next one. The more equity you have, the larger possible down payment you may be able to put down on the more house you can buy.

Equity will grow as you pay down your mortgage; it will also grow if your home appreciates in value due to a rising market or significant home improvements. In past years, owners saw their equity grow significantly because of market appreciation.



If you let the condition of your property deteriorate or if home prices fall, your equity could seriously erode. In the early 1990s, many real estate markets around the country experienced depreciating property values due to economic downturns. Some buyers lost their equity and more. Today, many of these markets have turned around, but it is a good lesson in how appreciation cuts both ways. Market conditions aren't the only culprit; deferring maintenance or failing to make serious repairs can also drop your home's value.