

# March



## Porch.com Home Maintenance Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						01
02	03 Dallas, TX	04	05	06	07	08
09 Daylight Savings (set clocks one hour ahead)	10 Seattle, WA	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Spring (Vernal) Equinox	21	22 Little Rock, AR
23 Portland, OR	24 Atlanta, GA	25	26	27	28	29 Charlotte, NC Washington DC, VA
30	31					

= Last Spring Frost (50% Probability)

Notes:

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# March


Porch.com  
Project of the Month


## Get your garden tools in prime condition

Getting your tools ready for spring and summer is an important part of yard preparation. Here's how to clean your tools and get them ready for the busy season ahead. The sand will help remove dirt from the tools and keep the edges sharp. The oil will keep rust from forming.

### Materials

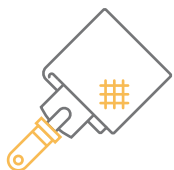
 **bucket or troff**  
deep enough to hold the working end of your tool standing up

 **sand**  
enough to fill the bucket within 1" of the top

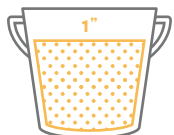
 **motor oil**  
or any oil or lubricant appropriate for use on metal

 **dry cloth**

 **sharpening tool**



**1:** Wipe down your tools with a dry rag, remove any old dirt, debris or rust



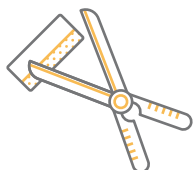
**2:** Fill your bucket with sand, allowing a 1" space between the top of the sand and the edge of the bucket



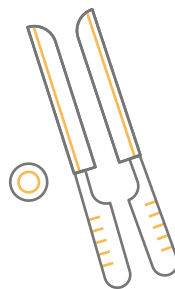
**3:** Mix the lubricating oil into the sand. Add enough for the sand to be damp and well-oiled but not wet



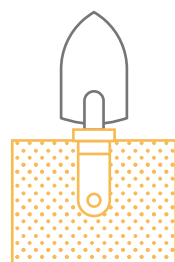
**4:** Plunge the working end of the tools into the sand mixture, gently moving it up and down



**5:** For tools that require a very sharp edge, like pruning clippers, use a clipper sharpening tool



**6:** Tools that are hinged, like pruning clippers, may need to be taken apart or tightened. Use a wrench to loosen the bolt. Take apart the two pieces, clean and oil each piece (you can also dip them in the oiled sand, just remove the sand particles thoroughly), then place the piece back together



**7:** Wood handled tools may develop splinters over time. Keep them smooth by running a high-grit sandpaper over the handles until the splinters are removed. Finish with a light coat of polyurethane sealant (or look for a spray sealant for greater ease of application)

Your hand tools can be stored in this bucket long term or hang them up so they do not rest on the ground. Now you're ready for spring gardening!

# March

## Porch.com Home Maintenance Checklist



### Interior

- ☐ Prepare for potential floods: elevate electrical items
- ☐ Plug all electronics into surge protectors to prepare for lightning storms
- ☐ Inspect basement and attic for any dampness
- ☐ Check/replace air conditioning filters
- ☐ Have your HVAC system inspected at least once a year
- ☐ Clean air ducts if necessary
- ☐ Clean and reseal tile grout as necessary
- ☐ Clean under heavy appliances (refrigerator, dishwasher, etc.)
- ☐ Update first aid kit
- ☐ Check and replace furnace filters
- ☐ Check your sump pump for proper operation
- ☐ Clean range hood filters: wash fan blades and housing
- ☐ Start planting seeds for indoor plants
- ☐ De-clutter your home: focus on desks, closets, office spaces, etc.
- ☐ Clean out the attic and basement
- ☐ Add waterproof veneer to basement/exterior walls
- ☐ Inspect basement and attic for any dampness
- ☐ Prepare an emergency kit with flashlights, food & water
- ☐ Take down storm windows and install original screens
- ☐ Sweep garage floor

### Exterior

- ☐ Put out water, seeds, and suet for birds
- ☐ Locate & remove early signs of birds/insect nests
- ☐ Look for rotting wood/peeling paint along the eaves, Examine siding for signs of winter damage
- ☐ Replace storm windows with original screens
- ☐ Clean gutters: clear any blockages, leaves or branches
- ☐ Call a chimney sweep for maintenance after the winter season
- ☐ Clean gutters of trapped ice and frozen debris
- ☐ Inspect & clean outdoor light fixtures

### Landscaping

- ☐ Organize & clean gardening tools; sharpen pruners
- ☐ Sow seeds indoors
- ☐ Sow seeds outdoors
- ☐ Clean up flower and vegetable beds
- ☐ Add compost and nutritious organic matter to the beds
- ☐ Transplant dormant perennials when ground has thawed
- ☐ Gradually and gently remove mulch from perennial beds
- ☐ Sharpen lawnmower blades
- ☐ Change/clean lawnmower spark plugs/oil/oil filters
- ☐ Inspect trees and shrubs for winter damage
- ☐ Remove any dangerous branches
- ☐ Tie up shrubs that may have split due to heavy snow loads
- ☐ Leave on the mulch if your temperature dips below freezing
- ☐ Control seasonal pests
- ☐ Test your irrigation timer and ensure it is working properly
- ☐ Prune any frost-damaged plants after all danger or frost has passed
- ☐ Continue to plant container-grown trees, ground covers, perennial herbs & flowers
- ☐ Rake leaves and other leftover winter debris