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Your February Kitchen To-Do List

by homewarranty.com

There's plenty of talk about relationships in February. Since most successful relationships are give-and-take, let's *take* a moment to think about how much your kitchen has *given* you this winter. With holiday parties and family gatherings complete, show your favorite spot in the house a little TLC this month.

Deep Clean Your Refrigerator - Empty the contents of your fridge and wash shelving with warm, soapy water and a sponge.

- Wipe down the inside of the fridge with your sponge using warm, soapy water and dry with a clean towel.
- Lift and clean the glass on the shelves if they are removable.
- Replace your shelving and your food. Now is a great time to check expiration dates and toss any UFOs (Unidentifiable Food-like Objects).

Don't Forget the Coils - The coils are located in the back or on the bottom of the appliance. Remove excess dust and dirt using the upholstery attachment on your vacuum cleaner.

Clean Range Hood Filter and Fan - The hood above your stovetop should be cleaned regularly to remove grease and grime. Wear rubber gloves to protect your hands. Clean the top, sides, and underneath. Start by thoroughly cleaning the range hood inside and out with a citrus-based cleaner.

Remove the grease filter from the fan. Clean it using hot, soapy water, or run it through the dishwasher.

Clean Kitchen Cabinets - Spray cabinets with a grease-cutting, citrus-based cleaner and allow cleaner to sit for a few minutes.

- Wear rubber gloves to dampen a sponge with hot water and wipe down the cabinets.
- Use a clean towel to wipe off any remaining residue after you scrub.

The Stovetop - Remove the stove burners, drip pans, and knobs.

- Wipe down the drip pans with a solution of dish soap and baking soda, and let them sit.
- Spray down the stovetop with a grease-cutting, citrus-based cleaner.
- Use a hot sponge to scrub grime off the stovetop.
- Wash the drip pans and stove knobs that have been sitting.
- Replace the drip pans, knobs, and stove burners.

The Oven - The easiest way to clean the oven is to use a commercial oven cleaner. For a greener option, sprinkle the bottom of the oven with baking soda, spray lightly with water. Allow it to sit overnight, then scrub it clean.

February is the perfect month to let your love and your kitchen shine its brightest.

February Calendar

February 2 - Groundhog Day

February 2 - Superbowl Sunday

February 14 - Valentine's Day

February 17 - Presidents' Day

Homeowner Tip:



Eliminate Soap Scum Naturally

Scum has no place in your love life...or your bathtub. Use this DIY solution to get your tub sparkling clean. In a spray bottle, combine a cup of warm white vinegar (use microwave) and a half cup of a grease-cutting liquid dish soap. Shake gently to combine. Spray solution on soap scum and allow to sit for 30 minutes to one hour. Scrub off with soft brush and rinse.

Do You Know Where to Find Your Home's Main Water Shut-off Valve?

Burst pipes within the home are rare, but if one occurs, it can cause major flood damage to your home's interior. Much of this damage is preventable - if you can shut off the water flow at once. To do so, you and your family members should know where your home's main water shut-off valve is.

Where is my shut-off valve located?

There's no simple answer that fits every homeowner. Your main water shut-off valve may be located indoors or outdoors, and several different locations.

It is typically found on the perimeter of the house where water first enters your home. Also, it is usually on the side of the house facing the street.

If you have a home with a basement, it is probably located on an interior wall near the front of the house and should be fairly obvious once you look for it.

If your home is built on a slab, the valve may be located near your water heater or somewhere in your garage along the wall closest to the front of the house.

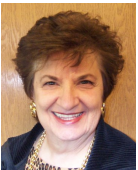
The important thing is, once you locate your home's main water shut-off valve, it's important to educate other family members of its location, and how to use it.

What if I am unable to locate it?

If you are unable to locate your home's emergency shut-off valve, contact your plumber for help.



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Crispy Oven-Fried Dill Pickles - Perfect for Game Day!

Ingredients:

1 c. panko bread crumbs
1/4 c. freshly chopped dill
2 tbsp. melted butter
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1/2 c. all-purpose flour
2 large eggs
1 c. pickle slices, patted dry with paper towels
Ranch dressing, for dipping

Directions:

Preheat oven to 450° and line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. In a shallow bowl, stir together bread crumbs, dill, melted butter, garlic powder, and cayenne and season with salt and pepper. Put flour in another shallow bowl. In a third bowl, beat eggs.

Working in batches, toss pickles in flour until lightly coated, then dip in eggs, then toss in panko mixture until fully coated.

Place pickles on prepared baking sheet and bake until golden and crispy, about 15 minutes. Serve with ranch dip.



Photo & recipe courtesy of delish.com