



Hello, neighbors.

Someday soon, it will get warm. And when it does, spring cleaning and maintenance will begin. That's almost enough to pray for rain ... but outdoor work will begin nevertheless.

There's lawn maintenance, upkeep and turnover of garden plots, spring plantings and any number of projects to tidy up your Stonewater home. Homeowners might want to make a list and roll out equipment to accomplish tasks. Or just do it.



One thing you might consider is cleaning your home's exterior. Especially on the north side of homes, an accumulation of dirt and particles can build up. Add a little moisture and breeze and you have the ingredients for crud like mold and mildew. Scuzzy siding is no fun.

Any number of home maintenance advice sites are available online.

If you are a fan of home improvement show guy Bob Vila:
<https://www.bobvila.com/articles/how-to-clean-vinyl-siding/>

You might find this information helpful:
<https://homeguides.sfgate.com/spray-wash-siding-28933.html>

If you have time, energy and a desire for strenuous activity:
<https://www.thespruce.com/cleaning-house-siding-before-exterior-painting-1821938>

You won't need to paint vinyl siding but if you are cleaning by hand, that's a good how-to.

Already have some plants and plots and are eager to protect them:
<https://www.hunker.com/13422376/cleaners-for-vinyl-siding-that-will-not-harm-plants>

Here's another step-by-step method for do-it-yourselfers:

<https://www.diynetwork.com/how-to/rooms-and-spaces/walls-and-ceilings/how-to-clean-vinyl-siding>

And one more:

<https://www.familyhandyman.com/project/cleaning-vinyl-siding/>



Remember, the accumulation of dirt and dust is one of many reasons why mildew grows on your vinyl siding. Others, according to GoldEagle.com, are excessive moisture (not just rain; consistent wet spots from poor drainage, dripping faucets or air conditioner condensation), and lack of sunlight (hence, the north side of homes or areas in lengthy daily shade).

There are plenty of private services that clean siding. If you have a company or individual you used in the past that you would recommend, pass it along to your neighbors. If you already have, thanks.

There are some caveats, especially when using power washers. Most are simple.

Read the washer instructions carefully before use. Aim the spray at eye level for most effective cleaning. Spraying upward with too much force can send water under the siding. Avoid using power washers around electrical outlets and other wall openings. If you know the manufacturer of your home's vinyl siding, get its recommendations for power washing. It's generally best to use low pressure.

Information is everywhere, online and from home improvement stores. If you've never cleaned siding before, spend some time learning the most effective techniques and materials.

Let's get shiny, Stonewater.

Final word

Remember, fees for all Stonewater Homeowners Association members are due by March 31. Fees are \$350 and payable by check or money order. Remit to:

Stonewater HOA, PO Box 515027, St Louis, MO 63151

See you around, neighbors.