

Compliments of Stacey Shanner

Good to Be

issue 12

HOME

DID YOU KNOW:

The magazine is typically displayed in the home for 3–4 weeks per issue. Half of recipients rank it as the most valuable branded product they receive from businesses.

High Ceilings, Low Maintenance

Tips for cleaning tall rooms

PAGE 38



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Front of Tear Out Card 1

SWEET CARROT halva

14 oz. carrots
1 pinch salt
4 tbsp. maple syrup
3 tbsp. light tahini + more to serve
½ tsp. ground cardamom
1 pinch bourbon vanilla powder
¼ c. white cane sugar
½ c. sesame seeds



Stacey Shanner
Realtor®

57 percent of readers save these tear out cards to reference recipes and other helpful tips and pass along your contact info to referrals.

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Back of Tear Out Card 1



SERVES 4

1. Bring a small amount of water to a gentle boil in a medium saucepan. Finely slice the carrots and cook in the gently simmering water for 20 minutes until very soft.
2. Drain the carrots in a sieve and purée with the salt until creamy. Mix in the maple syrup and tahini and flavor with the cardamom and vanilla powder. Divide the halva between bowls and set aside.
3. To prepare for making the sesame brittle, line a large plate with parchment paper. Cook the white cane sugar in a small nonstick pan over moderate to high heat. As soon as the sugar begins to melt (at first it will melt slowly, but this soon speeds up), let it caramelize, while stirring constantly with a wooden spoon. Remember, both the pan and the liquid caramel are too hot to use a rubber spatula or to allow tasting. Quickly stir in the sesame seeds and as soon as they begin to color, pour the mixture onto the lined plate and spread out thinly. After about 10 minutes, the brittle will be firm and can be broken into pieces.
4. Crumble the sesame brittle over the halva and serve each portion with a blob of tahini.

TIP: Halva also tastes great chilled and can easily be prepared a few hours or even days in advance. It will keep covered in the refrigerator for about 4 days.

Recipes taken from *Let's Go Nuts* by Estella Schweizer (Prestel, April 2022).
Photography by Winfried Heinze.



Dear Bill and Judy,

The start of the year is a great time to try new things. As exciting trends emerge and design ideas flourish, these next few months will be the perfect opportunity to explore what suits you and your home. Whether you're looking to give your walls a new look, tidy up your living spaces, or improve your home's safety, this issue of Good to Be Home has all the inspiration you need.

Paint color trends come and go, but 2023's rising stars are stylish, fun, and guaranteed to give your home the refresh it needs. Explore the most popular hues, from shades of blue to warm hazelnut, to add to your home this year.

Spring will be here before you know it, and, with it, spring-cleaning time. Whether you're a fan of the annual tradition or prefer to keep things spick-and-span all year round, the tips in this issue can help you simplify the process so you can enjoy your home more.

Most people would agree that safety is a primary concern when it comes to making home improvements, but there's often a lot to consider. The enclosed guide for protecting your family's vital documents and well-being can help you make safety a priority this year.

Take advantage of this fresh start to make your home the space you've always dreamed of. As always, it's a pleasure to send you this magazine.

Stacey Shanner



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Add a personal letter to the front inside cover that speaks to your connections. This personalization leads 77 percent of recipients to better appreciate the sender.



spring FAMILY PORTRAITS

written by:
LAUREN KIM

With its plentiful blooms and bouquet of colors, springtime can be one of the best seasons to snap outdoor portraits. If you would like to take beautiful family photos this season, use this guide to create ones you'll long treasure.



1. SETTLE ON THE DETAILS You have a few options for getting the perfect shot: you could hire a photographer, recruit a friend, or take photos yourself using a tripod and remote timer. You might want to select one of your family's favorite spots for your photo shoot—like your backyard or neighborhood park—or a pretty locale, such as a public garden or farm. Just ensure that the location isn't too busy. Nature will provide ideal lighting for your portraits within two hours of sunrise and sunset, if your family is amenable to those hours.

2. PLAN YOUR SHOTS Consider using photo props, such as a kite or a beach ball for seaside shots or a picnic blanket and chairs for comfortable seating. Props can also keep young children entertained and happy during the portrait session. Your family should dress in complementary light colors, such as tans, grays, and creams, that won't clash with the scenery—and be sure to avoid busy prints. Photograph your family in the shade since a bright background can steal the focus, and don't have them face the sun. For a large group photo, it's helpful to use a wide-angle lens and put the tallest family members in the back.

3. TAKE PLENTY OF PHOTOS Snap as many photos as you can to guarantee the perfect shot. Take some candid pictures too. Try grouping your subjects in a variety of standing and seated poses, and take both horizontal and vertical shots. You can also try different group shots, such as just the adults or only the kids. Take a few shots of each pose to make sure you get a good photo of each.

4. EDIT YOUR PHOTOS There are a variety of free apps, such as Pixlr and Snapseed, that allow you to crop photos, eliminate red eye, add filters, and make color and other adjustments. Editing your photos can help them look more professional.

Good to Be HOME

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Protecting your household's **VITAL INFORMATION**



written by: BONNIE JOFFE

Protecting your home can mean a lot of different things. Whether it's from fire, theft, or natural disasters, safeguarding your sensitive documents is a large part of protecting your family's well-being.

However, properly guarding your legal, medical, and financial information is more than just keeping track of your money in the bank or storing important papers in a random drawer; it means making sure these documents are up to date, completed correctly, and easily accessible.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Without official, notarized documents, it can be difficult—if not impossible—to conduct any legal business. Since these types of documents are so important, be sure they are kept in a place that family members can access in case of an emergency. Examples of this type of documentation include:

- Vital records like birth, marriage, or divorce certificates, and adoption or child-custody papers
- Copies of driver's licenses or any other valid government IDs
- Social Security or green cards
- Military-service identification papers
- Pet ownership papers and ID tags
- Car registrations, VINs, and titles





ESTATE

Estate documents are crucial to making sure your medical and financial wishes are carried out. For example, do you have someone who will act as your power of attorney in the event you cannot act on your own behalf? This can financially and legally impact your estate if you have not assigned anyone. So be sure the following are ironclad for your protection:

- Estate-planning documents and trusts
- Your last will and testament and living will
- Power of attorney for financial, medical, and legal purposes

BANKING AND FINANCIALS

Your banking information should be clear and concise. If you have a safety-deposit box, who will have access to it? If you have automatic payments, who will know how to cancel them and put your accounts on hold if you are suddenly unable? Make sure you have thorough records of the following:

- Banking, checking, and savings accounts
- Debit and credit cards
- Retirement and investment accounts
- Mortgage or home equity line of credit
- Student loans
- Car loans
- Alimony and child support payments
- Deed, title, and survey for all real estate holdings



Whether it's from fire, theft, or natural disasters, safeguarding your sensitive documents is a large part of protecting your family's well-being.



INSURANCE AND MEDICAL

Insurance policies and medical coverage are fluid—at any given time, an insurer can choose to alter your benefits. And because most states are required to send you notification of any changes, it's critical that you frequently review your policy. When it comes to your insurance and medical policies, you should:

- Evaluate your life insurance policy, and be sure the coverage matches your needs in case the unexpected happens.
- Keep all health records, medical bills, and insurance policies in one place should they need to be quickly accessed.
- Compile an updated contact list of doctors, all medications being taken, and pharmacy information.
- Keep accurate immunization records for you and your children.

EMERGENCY FUND

Establishing an emergency fund for your family can serve as a financial cushion in case an emergency arises. The Federal Reserve has reported that roughly 68 percent of American adults would be able to cover \$400 in cash for unforeseen expenses. However, most experts recommend saving enough money to cover your expenses for three to six months. Even if it's just a small amount, try to put money away each month to give yourself some protection.



PASSWORDS AND COPIED DOCUMENTS

Always make extra copies of your most sensitive documents and store them in a safe at home or at your bank. Be sure to have instructions, keys, external hard drives or flash drives, and all passwords readily available if you become unable to share this information; be sure a family member or close friend knows where and how to access it. Also, there are websites, such as Trustworthy.com, which organizes and protects your private information, that you can use to help with family management. With modern technology, once you digitize your data you will be able to access it anywhere.

Don't underestimate the importance of safeguarding your personal, legal, and financial documents—doing so can help protect you and your loved ones in the future.

SPRING-CLEANING

simplified

written by:
ALEXA BRICKER

Spring can be a beautiful time of year, but there's one aspect of the season that some people find not so glamorous—spring-cleaning.

If your deep-cleaning efforts are as perennial as the flowers in your garden, you'll want to make the most of the time you spend tidying up. The guide that follows can help you plan, declutter, and organize your spaces to start the season with a clean slate.

Declutter and downsize

You don't want to dust or rearrange items you're inevitably going to get rid of, so the first step of your spring-cleaning should be to declutter. Consider taking this process room by room to make it more efficient.

BEDROOMS Bedrooms are a great place to start with the decluttering process, especially the bedroom closet and dresser. It can be helpful to first completely empty your closet and dresser before separating your clothing into piles. Doing so allows you to see everything you've accumulated, which can help you feel better about parting ways with some of your belongings. A good rule of thumb is that if you haven't worn an item in the last year, it's probably safe to donate or get rid of it.

BATHROOMS Bathrooms can be some of the smallest spaces in your home, yet clutter often accumulates in them. If you have under-the-sink storage, remove everything from the cabinets and throw away any items that you no longer use or that are expired. Go through your medicine cabinet, too, and dispose of expired medications accordingly. (You can check your municipality's website to see if it has a drug take-back program.)

KITCHEN It pays to have a well-organized, clutter-free kitchen. Starting with your top shelves or cabinets, sort through and remove any items you no longer have use for. Remove all food items from your pantry, and throw away what's expired.

Dust and disinfect

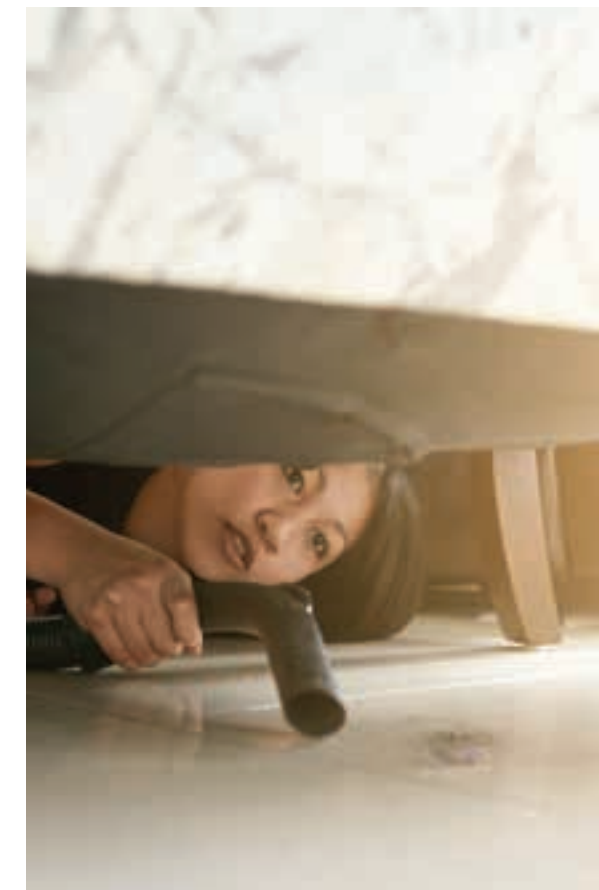
When the decluttering process is over, you'll be ready to get down to cleaning. Here are a few tips to make the cleaning process quick and efficient:

☞ Start with the tasks you like least.

It might sound counterintuitive, but think of how good it will feel when you can look at your list and all you have left to do are the chores you enjoy.

☞ Work from top to bottom.

You'll kick yourself if you vacuum or sweep only for dust from fan blades or tall cabinets to fall on your newly cleaned floors.





📁 **Keep it simple.** You shouldn't need a vast array of cleaning products to get the job done. A few essentials to have on hand include:

- vacuum/handheld vacuum
- broom and dustpan
- handheld duster
- sponges
- multipurpose cleaner
- antibacterial spray
- distilled white vinegar
- baking soda
- rubber gloves

📁 **Pace yourself.** There's no written rule that says you need to get all your cleaning done in a day. Spread out cleaning tasks over a weekend or two, and reward yourself with a fun activity, such as dinner at your favorite restaurant or a trip to the movies, after finishing each cleaning session.

📁 **Make it a game.** What could make cleaning more fun than turning it into a competition? The rules are up to you; the winner could be the person who cleans a room the fastest or the most thoroughly or who cleans the most rooms overall.





Devise a plan

Spring-cleaning can be made much easier when you prioritize your cleaning routine throughout the year. Tasks like dusting, sweeping, mopping, and vacuuming should be performed at least weekly. However, large tasks, such as cleaning and reorganizing your refrigerator, wiping down baseboards, and dusting high surfaces like fan blades, can be completed less often. Keep a log of tasks to do weekly, monthly, and seasonally to make spring-cleaning less overwhelming each year.

Weekly

- 👉 Wash clothing, towels, blankets, and bedding
- 👉 Dust hard surfaces
- 👉 Vacuum and sweep floors
- 👉 Clean and disinfect toilets, sinks, and showers
- 👉 Wipe down the stove and kitchen countertop

Monthly

- 👉 Dust light fixtures and fan blades
- 👉 Wipe down high-touch areas (e.g., remote controls, light switches, doorknobs)
- 👉 Vacuum furniture and under cushions
- 👉 Clean inside the oven and microwave

Seasonally

- 👉 Vacuum and rotate mattresses
- 👉 Wash drapes and curtains
- 👉 Wipe down the insides and outsides of windows
- 👉 Empty the refrigerator, and clean its shelves and drawers
- 👉 Clean outdoor furniture and doormats

With spring-cleaning season officially here, use this guide to make sure you and your home get a fresh start!





warm up to Winter Lawn Care

written by:
MATTHEW BRADY

When winter returns, many people, especially those living in a climate with frigid winters, consider it to be a welcome break from lawn maintenance. But, in reality, lawn care is important all year round, even during winter months. If you follow certain steps, you can both protect your lawn all season long and prepare it for lush spring growth.

KEEP IT TIDY

One of the reasons people look forward to a break from lawn maintenance is that there's so much of it in fall, especially leaf cleanup. But you should consider continuing your cleanup efforts through the winter months because leaves and other debris can be hazardous to your lawn's health. For example, if layers of leaves get frozen onto your yard, they can prevent the grass beneath from breathing and also cause mold and disease.

WATCH YOUR STEP

Walking around in winter can be messy, including on your own property. Ice can make even going to your car hazardous, and it seems like snow piles up all winter long in certain parts of the country. But tramping around outside with heavy boots also impacts your lawn, so be mindful of it under all that ice and snow. Try to avoid walking on your yard since doing so can compact the snow, damaging the hibernating grass underneath. Whenever it's safe to do so, opt to use driveways and pathways to and from your home.





Try to avoid walking on your yard since doing so can compact the snow, damaging the hibernating grass underneath.

ADD SEED

For the most part, overseeding—adding extra grass seed to an already existing lawn—is done during late autumn months before the ground becomes frozen. However, adding seed doesn’t necessarily need to end with the final leaves of fall. You may want to consider a process called dormant seeding as well.

To do this, keep an eye out for a period of thawing between December and February when ice and snow are gone from your lawn, and inspect your lawn for bare spots. Till these areas as you would in warmer months: assuming they are already clear of debris, rake over the top layer of soil to loosen it, distribute grass seed, cover the seeds with the soil, and let Old Man Winter do the rest. The embedded seeds will hibernate for the rest of winter (assuming you don’t experience a prolonged warm-up) and be ready to germinate in spring.



WARM-WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS

If you live in a location that doesn’t usually get snow or frigid cold, your winter lawn-care routine will be a bit different—but that doesn’t mean it’s any less important. Grass will likely still grow, albeit slower, so continue mowing, but mow less frequently and at a lower height until your grass stops growing. You should also continue to weed your lawn in winter, but water less often with the cooler temperatures. And, much like homeowners in other parts of the country, you should avoid trekking on your grass during winter and keep leaves and other debris from completely covering it (mulching the leaves instead, if possible).



But perhaps the best way to be kind to your warm-weather lawn is to keep an eye on the weather and calendar. Mild weather isn’t always a given in winter, even in warm climates—temperatures can drop precipitously at night and inclement weather could strike, both of which can wreak havoc on your lawn. If you’re prepared, you can take steps to help protect your lawn, such as putting off watering it during a cold stretch. And make sure you’re ready for spring by doing maintenance on your mower, trimmer, and other yard tools and making sure you have the necessary seeding and herbicides come March.

As counterintuitive as it may seem, continuing to care for your lawn during colder months can actually make a big difference to its overall health. By making your yard a yearlong priority—even during winter—you can set it up to thrive.



SIMPLIFYING THE *moving day* PROCESS



written by: BONNIE JOFFE

Whether you are a veteran mover, haven't moved in years, or are a first-timer, the process can be overwhelming. If you are planning a local or long-distance move, organizing and planning well enough in advance can be the key to a successful experience.

HIRING A MOVER

When hiring a professional mover, be sure to get estimates from at least two moving companies as soon as you know when you will need their services. Most companies provide an estimate based on the weight of items to be moved and how many rooms there are in the home. Be sure to tell them if certain items will not be going on the moving truck—this will make a difference in the quoted weight. You can also request for the movers to pack for you, which could dictate your packing timeline. Double-check that you are on their calendar for the agreed-upon day, especially if you are moving in the spring or summer since these are typically the busiest times of the year.



MOVING YOURSELF

If you are doing the move on your own, reserve a rental truck, trailer, or moving container as soon as you know your move date. If you're relocating to a different state, the one-way drop-off costs for your truck rental can be quite expensive, so shop around for the best rates.

Also, be sure you're renting the right size truck or trailer—you don't want to be caught short. Play it safe and rent the next size up if you're not sure since the increase in cost is generally minimal. (You can also ask the rental company what size they suggest.) If you are using a trailer, check beforehand how much weight your vehicle can tow.

Next, ask friends and family members to help you with your move. Only ask people who are dependable and can comfortably lift heavy objects. If you are having difficulty finding the right help, websites like [moving.com](https://www.moving.com) can help you find reputable day-laborers in your area.



CREATING A CHECKLIST

Sometimes moves must take place sooner than expected, so planning your move months in advance may not be possible. However, a thirty-to-forty-five-day window is advised. Create a checklist of things you need to do to stay organized and on task and to avoid a last-minute rush.

Take inventory

Do a thorough walk-through of your home, and don't forget the basement, garage, and attic. Make a detailed list of the items you want to take with you and those you will no longer need or want—this will help when getting an estimate from a moving company for weight purposes. Also, make a list of all your valuables and important documents, and keep it in a safe place that you can easily access.

Start decluttering

This is the time to purge, sell, and donate items you will no longer be using. The best way to do this is by working your way through each room, making separate piles, and then deciding what will stay and what will go. Decluttering early will help you to stay on your packing timeline and avoid last-minute purges.

Purchase packing supplies

Stock up on moving-grade boxes, packing tape, scissors, box cutters, permanent markers for labeling, bubble wrap and packing paper, and stretch wrap to protect your furniture. If you're hiring a mover, ask them if they can estimate the number of boxes you'll need. Patrick Sipera, sales manager at Olympia Moving and Storage Company, says, "Each room will need about ten boxes, so based on a four-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath home, you can estimate you will need approximately 140 to 150 boxes." Movers will sell them to you for a reasonable price. If you're doing it yourself, home stores will have all the necessary packing supplies and other moving tools you will need.



Change your address and utilities

Be sure to contact your utility and cable company seven to ten days before your move to confirm that your new service will start on the requested date. Make necessary address changes as soon as three weeks in advance of your move. Most, if not all address changes can be done online; these include your bank statements, credit card bills, magazine and newspaper subscriptions, and any other communication you typically receive through the mail.

Pack a first-night box

As moving day approaches, you will likely be busy tying up loose ends and have a lot on your mind, so preparing your first-night box well in advance will be one less thing you will have to think about. This box should include necessary toiletries, medications, a change of clothing, important paperwork, and any valuables that need to stay with you.





MOVING DAY TASKS

- ❑ If possible, plan for children and pets to be cared for by a friend or relative.
- ❑ Make a list of the items that will not be going on the moving truck, and alert the movers of what stays.
- ❑ Take pictures of items that need disassembling; you will need to know how to reassemble them, so be sure to keep all parts for each item in a bag, and securely tape it to the item.
- ❑ If you are taking your appliances, such as a refrigerator or freezer, properly prepare them for transport by emptying their contents and allowing plenty of time for defrosting.
- ❑ If you have hired a professional mover, be available to answer any questions.
- ❑ Provide drinks and snacks for your helpers—this not only promotes goodwill but also can help keep everyone’s energy level up.

Simplifying a move is not only about prepping ahead of time but about having a game plan for when you arrive at your new home.



UNPACKING

Simplifying a move is not only about prepping ahead of time but also about having a game plan for when you arrive at your new home. Tackling this second half of your move can be tiresome, so it’s important to be methodical during the unpacking process to help things go smoothly.

- ❑ Once you are moved in and all boxes and furniture have been put in their respective places, you can start the unpacking process.
- ❑ Unpack your daily essentials first, including your kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom items, as well as any necessary electronics.
- ❑ Break down empty boxes, and discard or recycle them as soon as you can to avoid clutter, which can become a tripping hazard.



To increase the likelihood that your move is stress-free, establish a well-thought-out plan as you begin the process, determine a moving timeline to avoid a last-minute rush, create a detailed checklist and methodically check the tasks off as they are completed, and put together a comprehensive inventory list of what you’re taking with you, especially your most valuable items. Most of all, be sure to ask for help if you need it.





a posh POWDER ROOM

written by:
LAUREN KIM

Your powder room may be one of the smallest spaces in your home, but it's an area where you can go big on design. These days, the trend is to bring ultra-luxurious finishes, gorgeous wall treatments, and other super-stylish elements into half

baths. If you are interested in trying new decorating trends in your home, updating a half bath is a good place to start because you can create a lot of impact with just a few changes. Follow these tips to make a big splash with your powder room.



Photo Credit: Zane Persaud

PATTERNED WALLS

Today's trends in powder room decor are anything but boring, and half-bath walls can be embellished with eye-catching patterns that are either stenciled or pasted on in the form of elaborate wallpaper designs. Because half baths lack a tub or shower, they are less likely to get steamy, making them more suitable for wallpaper. Modern-day wallpaper is nothing like what it was in the 1980s and 1990s—its patterns are more sophisticated, its materials tend to be more eco-friendly, and it's easier to hang and remove; there are even peel-and-stick options. Papering your walls can instantly add style, color, and texture to your space. Some trendy patterns include graphic prints, florals, botanicals, and updated chinoiserie designs. You can also create a wallpapered look by stenciling your walls with paint and with the help of a wall stencil from companies like Cutting Edge Stencils and Royal Design Studio Stencils.



Photo Credit:
Beate Heuman

ORNATE TILES

Tiles that mimic the style of old-world encaustic tile, which were inlaid with colorful patterns, are now being used to add fabulous style to powder room walls and floors. You could also go with a bold black-and-white theme in your bathroom. Hexagon or triangular tiles are gaining popularity, as are ones made of real or faux marble and subway tiles hung vertically instead of horizontally. While tile is an excellent way to make your room highly personal and unique, it is also a durable, water-resistant material for a bathroom.



“YOUR POWDER ROOM MAY BE ONE OF THE SMALLEST SPACES IN YOUR HOME, BUT IT’S AN AREA WHERE YOU CAN *go big on design.*”



RICH HUES

Don’t be afraid to use color in your powder room—walls painted in deep, vivid hues are trending in powder room design. While white has long been a classic choice, shades of gray, green, or blue now cover half-bath walls. White beadboard is commonly used in powder rooms, but beadboard painted in gray, green, or blue is also popular. Instead of featuring traditional wood or painted-white vanities, some homeowners are installing bright, bold-colored vanities.

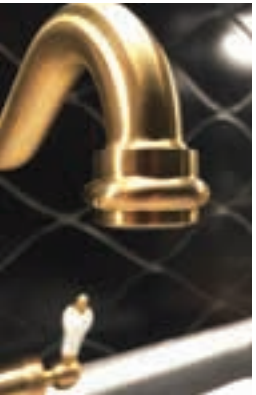
A STYLISH MIRROR

The mirror you choose can infuse personality and style into your space. A classic round mirror framed in white or black can complement a farmhouse-style half bath, a copper, hexagon-shaped one can accessorize a glamorous powder room, and an asymmetrical-shaped mirror can help define a modern bathroom. Besides incorporating style into the space, a mirror can reflect additional light, giving the room a larger appearance.

POWDER ROOM BLING

Gleaming bathroom hardware and fixtures, such as faucets, vanity handles, towel rods, and doorknobs, are the jewelry of your space. Traditional chrome continues to be a time-honored choice, but nickel, brass, bronze, and black finishes are in vogue too.

You can also choose to match these finishes with the mirror in your space. Brass can lend a vintage vibe, oil-rubbed bronze and polished or brushed nickel can create a traditional feel, and copper can impart a rich look. Polished chrome is a good choice for a classic appearance while lending a hint of modernity.



BRILLIANT LIGHTS

Finally, you’ll want to select half-bath lighting that accentuates your style. You could pick matte black or white fixtures to complement a farmhouse-style or modern half bath, a delicate crystal chandelier to accentuate a feminine powder room, or light fixtures that match the other finishes in the room. To create a dramatic effect, you can layer lighting by hanging a dimmable chandelier and over-the-vanity task lights or sconces.



If you’re ready to go bigger and bolder with your powder room, use these tips to achieve a fresh and modern look.

A large, shallow, light-colored ceramic bowl filled with Orecchiette pasta. The pasta is coated in a light sauce and topped with finely chopped hazelnuts, fresh sage leaves, and a generous amount of freshly grated cheese. A wooden spoon rests in the bowl. The background shows a rustic wooden surface and a white cloth with a red and blue plaid pattern.

Welcoming and Comforting

Cuisine

recipes by: HÉLOÏSE BRION

photography by: CHRISTOPHE ROUÉ

Creating a memorable meal experience, from the food to its presentation, can be an art form in itself, as shown by these simple yet elegant recipes from Héroïse Brion's latest cookbook, *My Art of Entertaining*.

Orecchiette

with hazelnuts and sage / **SERVES 4**

Ingredients:

3 tablespoons unsalted butter

About 10 sage leaves

10½ ounces orecchiette

⅓ cup toasted hazelnuts, roughly chopped

Parmesan or Pecorino, freshly grated

Fleur de sel

Salt and freshly ground pepper

Instructions:

1. Heat the butter with the sage leaves in a saucepan over low heat, until the butter melts. Let infuse over very low heat for 15–20 minutes.
2. Cook the orecchiette in a large pan of boiling salted water for about 10 minutes, or for 1 or 2 minutes less than the time indicated on the package.
3. Drain the pasta and toss it with the melted butter and sage leaves to coat.
4. Transfer the pasta to a serving bowl. Sprinkle over the hazelnuts and grate the cheese over the top according to personal taste. Season with pepper and serve immediately.

KITCHEN NOTES: *You can swap out the hazelnuts for other nuts of your choice: pecans, cashews, almonds, or a mix of different nuts.*

Spinach Pie / **SERVES 6-8**

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 shallots, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 1/3 cups whole milk
- 1 1/2 cups grated Parmesan
- 1 1/4 pounds frozen spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
- 2 round sheets puff pastry (about 12 1/2 inches), preferably all-butter
- 1 egg, beaten
- Salt and freshly ground pepper

Instructions:

1. Melt the butter in a saucepan over low heat. Add the shallots, garlic, and a pinch of salt, and cook for 2 minutes. Stirring continuously, add the flour and cook for about 30 seconds. Gradually whisk in the milk and cook for 2–3 minutes, until the mixture thickens and becomes smooth.
2. Remove from the heat, stir in the Parmesan and spinach, and season to taste with salt and pepper. Transfer to a bowl and let cool completely.
3. Preheat the oven to 400°F.
4. Line a 9–10-in. tart pan with one of the pastry sheets. Spread the spinach mixture over the pastry and cover with the second sheet. Press the pastry edges together and seal them using the tines of a fork. Make several small holes in the top to let steam escape. Brush the pastry with the beaten egg to glaze, sprinkle with pepper, and bake for 35–40 minutes, until golden brown.

KITCHEN NOTES: *This pie is delicious served hot or at room temperature, with a fresh green salad on the side.*





Fennel and Onion Soup

with coppa chips / **SERVES 4-5**

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 5 yellow onions, finely chopped
- 1 bulb fennel, finely chopped (reserve fronds for garnish)
- Juice of 1 orange
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1–1½ quarts water
- 2 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 5 slices coppa
- Salt and freshly ground pepper

Instructions:

1. Melt the butter in a large skillet over low heat. Add the onions, fennel, and a pinch of salt. Cook for about 10 minutes, or until softened.
2. Pour in the orange juice and vinegar and cook for about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the onions and fennel are caramelized.
3. Transfer the onion mixture to a large saucepan or Dutch oven. Pour in 1–1½ quarts water, depending on the consistency desired, and add the rosemary sprigs. Let simmer for 15 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 375°F. Place the coppa on a baking sheet and bake in the oven for 8–10 minutes, until crisp. Let cool on paper towels, then break into small pieces.
5. Remove the rosemary sprigs from the soup. Puree the soup in a blender. Taste and add more salt and pepper, if needed.
6. Transfer the soup to a tureen and top with the coppa chips and chopped fennel fronds. Season with pepper and serve.

Coconut Cake / *SERVES 8-10*

Ingredients:

Butter and flour for the pan

1 stick plus 2 teaspoons
unsalted butter

½ cup brown sugar

3 eggs

1⅔ cups all-purpose flour

1 scant tablespoon baking powder

1 pinch baking soda

1 pinch fleur de sel

Scant ½ cup whole milk

1¾ cups unsweetened shredded
coconut, divided

Generous ½ cup blueberry jam
(or another jam of your choice)

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F. Grease a standard loaf pan with butter and dust it with flour.
2. Gently melt the butter and pour it into a mixing bowl. Stir in the brown sugar. Whisk in the eggs one at a time.
3. In a separate bowl, mix together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and fleur de sel.
4. Using a spatula, mix the dry ingredients into the egg mixture. Gradually add the milk to make a smooth batter. Fold in 1 generous cup of the shredded coconut.
5. Pour the batter into the prepared loaf pan. Bake for 45–50 minutes, or until the tip of a knife inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean. Bake for an additional 10 minutes, if needed.
6. Turn the cake out of the pan onto a wire rack and let cool for about 20 minutes. Spread the jam over the top of the cake and sprinkle over the remaining coconut. Serve warm or at room temperature.



2023 PAINT COLOR *trends*

written by: BONNIE JOFFE

Each year, leaders in the design, architecture, and paint-manufacturing industries meet and forecast design and fashion trends for the upcoming year. For 2023, they are predicting that happy colors will dominate interior design trends, accompanied by vibrant neutrals.



Tips for choosing a paint color:

- Take your time and don't feel rushed to choose a color.
- Don't place paint swatches next to each other; rather, paint each color on separate walls. Patrick O'Donnell, international brand ambassador at Farrow & Ball and an expert in paint colors, recommends separating colors because it can become too difficult to determine which color is best when they are too close together.
- Once you've painted the color swatches, wait twenty-four to forty-eight hours before making a judgment on the color. You will want to see the colors during the day and at night.

INCORPORATING 2023 COLOR TRENDS INTO YOUR HOME

Use these suggestions to integrate fresh paint colors into your home this year.



YELLOW

Shades of yellow have become increasingly popular for interiors, and they can be used in almost any type of room style—modern, glam, or traditional. Yellow is also great for rooms without windows. Soft yellows, coordinated with neutrals and accents of blue and green, can add even more dimension.



BLUE

Blue is the most loved color in the world, so it's no surprise it's a trending interior-paint color. The color blue brings depth and dimension to any room and is a good contrast to earth-tone colors and materials. Design professionals expect brighter blue hues like cobalt and electric blue, as well as more subdued blues like midnight and navy, to be increasingly popular.



GREEN/GRAY

Green goes well with natural colors and materials, and stone and tile are a fantastic complement to a variety of gray shades. Also considered to be one of the best neutrals, gray is a perfect option for someone wanting a more subdued color palette.



HAZELNUT

Since hazelnut is a darker shade of neutral beige, designers recommend using this as a background color. In fact, hazelnut has become the adoptive living.



High Ceilings, Low Maintenance

written by: MATTHEW BRADY

One of the most awe-inspiring features of a house is a wide-open living area, especially if that area comes with magnificently tall ceilings. The downside? As a homeowner, how do you maintain such a dramatic vertical space? The following tips can help keep your great room looking great.

CLEANING

You can always bring out a ladder for dusting and cleaning lower areas, but it will get more dangerous the higher you try to reach. It's generally agreed that the top tool for cleaning high, hard-to-reach areas is a telescoping wand with a nylon duster, which can do the work for you by extending to as much as twenty to thirty feet with attachments—making it the perfect tool for dusting ceiling fans and clearing cobwebs. Some kits also come with squeegees, which help make cleaning windows and skylights a breeze.





DECORATING

When it comes to decor, it can feel like there's so much space and so much of it is hard to reach. Here are some ways you can alleviate this problem. First, consider your lighting. People who have such rooms will often hang an eye-catching chandelier from the ceiling as a statement piece. You could also opt to create an accent wall, which will not only make the room pop but also add a focal point and tie the decor together. And take advantage of the walls to add shelving or artwork that conveys your personal style; if you consider the latter, imagine how grand a gallery wall you could make!



Consider specially designed shades or blinds to filter light in high-ceiling rooms.



SHADING

Something to consider with high-ceiling rooms is that they often bring in a lot of light, and dealing with the sun may be one of the trickiest aspects of having them. Installing traditional blinds or shades and manually controlling them would be inefficient, if not hazardous. Your best bet is to have specially designed shades or blinds added to your windows, which can be customized to your window sizes and controlled remotely, even through your smartphone.

THINK THINGS THROUGH

Finally, be intentional with everything you do. Play it safe if you're using a ladder, always wear goggles (and possibly a mask), and turn off electricity to the room to avoid mishaps. Start at the highest point, and make your way down as you clean. Also keep in mind that maintaining high-ceiling rooms can strain your body, especially your arms and back, so take frequent breaks if need be. If all else fails, you can always opt to hire a house-cleaning service to make your spectacular multistory haven the space it's meant to be.



Photo Credit: Sophie Grenier Photographie

naturally INSPIRED

interview with: LISA AUDIT

written by: LAUREN KIM



Photo Credit: Lisa Audit

Canadian commercial artist Lisa Audit is known for her beautiful watercolors of flowers, birds, and other natural scenes that adorn a variety of home products. Here she shares how she has found professional success through a combination of talent and luck and reveals her dreams for the future.

Have you always been interested in art? Art has always been instinctive and very easy for me. When people asked me, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” I would say, “I am going to be a painter.” They would look at me like, “OK, good luck!” I studied graphic arts in college in Sherbrooke, Quebec. In a graphic arts course, you learn about illustration, photography, and other skills, but I was strongest in illustration.

Photo Credit:
York Wallcoverings



How did you start working as an artist? My aunt gave me a clipping from a newspaper for a job at a wallpaper company. I got the job and learned how to create wallpaper patterns. A designer from a New York company came to visit to sell wallpaper designs, and I said I’d like to work for them on the side making wallpaper images. They also had clients in the bedding industry. I would work weekdays at the wallpaper company and weekends for the New York company. Thanks to my aunt, I am where I am today.



Photo Credit:
York Wallcoverings



Photo Credit: Lisa Audit



Photo Credit: York Wallcoverings

How did you make the jump into commercial art?

I did a design for a bedspread for the New York company and saw a photo of it in a magazine. I phoned the publication and asked them for a copy of the photo, and they ended up interviewing me for the magazine. My art director came across the magazine article and contacted me, and we started designing images for companies. He knows what clients want and how to keep me from going off track; as an artist, I can easily go into a noncommercial area that pleases me but is not going to sell. The key is to know what's in style so it will work in people's homes. I can't start painting pink flamingos and hope somebody is going to put that artwork in their living room—chances are they won't.



Photo Credit: Sophie Grenier Photographe



Photo Credit: Sophie Grenier Photographe

Your art studio has plain white walls. Why is that?

I want to be focused on what's on my table and not on what's all around. If there is too much going on in here, I think it would be overwhelming.

Do you ever work outside your studio? No. That's what a fine artist, someone who goes outside to paint or creates abstracts, would do. It's something I plan to do a few years down the road. In my studio, I can focus on what's going to sell and what is the most commercial product—if you can put it on plates, a rug, or a bedspread.

How would you describe your style? It's hard for an artist to define their own style. I would say it's delicate and romantic because I am known for my flowers. It's not bold and in your face. Even if I try to do bold, it's going to end up soft.

Have you always done watercolors? No, what I do changes with what's in style. Commercial artists must stay flexible. We can never say, "I'll only do watercolors and will never do anything else." The watercolor style is in right now, but it is going to fade, and I'll need to



Photo Credit: Sophie Grenier Photographe

It's hard for an artist to define their own style. I would say [mine is] delicate and romantic because I am known for my flowers.

go into the next medium. I've done acrylics, oils, and pen-and-ink. In addition, I love pastels, which is not the "in" thing, though. It's an interesting medium. It looks like chalk, and your fingers get messy and dirty. In the 1980s, peach and mint, and pink and gray, were popular color combinations. They are back in now but have been tweaked somewhat. Everything comes back but with a new vibe.

What do you enjoy most about painting? I love the connection I have with nature and the ocean—themes I enjoy painting. Before COVID, I used to go to Costa Rica for two months every winter, and I'd bring my paint brushes, paper, and computer and work from there with the birds. I live in the city now, but I am looking to go back to the country. I need to be in the country and hear the birds.

For more info, visit lisaauditart.com



Photo Credit:
Lisa Audit



Photo Credit: Sophie Grenier Photographe



Safety Upgrades

for your home

written by:
BONNIE JOFFE

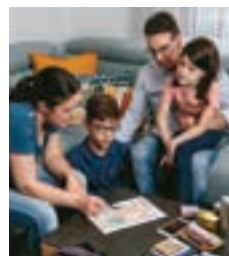
Security systems Security cameras are a good way to ward off intruders; however, they are only part of your home's overall security. Well-lit homes help deter intruders, so think about installing outside lights or checking that the existing



ones are working. Consider upgrading to a smart home system that includes hardwired alarms, cameras, and sensors, which can provide even more security and protection.

Doors, locks, and windows Are all your doors, locks, and windows in working order? Installation of a tamperproof smart deadbolt is also considered to be one of the best options for home automation and security to keep intruders out.

Fire safety The US Fire Administration recommends testing smoke alarms monthly, changing the batteries once or twice a year, and replacing alarms older than ten years. Upgrading to a



hardwired alarm system will instantly connect you to the fire department if the alarm is sounded. If you live in a multistory home, keep a fire ladder easily accessible on the upper floors. Having an exit plan in place will help you and your family escape in the event of a house fire.

Home safety shouldn't be taken for granted. Improving your home's security by installing necessary upgrades is important to keeping you and your family out of harm's way. Not all safety upgrades need to be major, but even seemingly minor details could become a security issue. Consider putting together a checklist of items to inspect yearly, or as recommended by a professional.

Childproofing Following these tips can help prevent your child from getting into a dangerous situation at home.

- Install child-safe stove handles and hot water valves to prevent burns.
- Keep cleaning supplies and medications locked in an out-of-reach cabinet or drawer.
- Make sure your stove and television are on secure surfaces to prevent them from toppling over.
- Install safety gates both at the top and bottom of stairs to prevent falling and sustaining head or other bodily injuries.



Fortunately, most home safety upgrades are easy to do yourself and relatively affordable. Conduct a thorough inspection of your home to determine whether any improvements are needed, and implement these tips to keep your home safe and sound.

The inclusion of useful tips is one of the top reasons 58 percent of recipients have referred the professional who sent them the magazine in the past 12 months.



For all that you put into your home, YOU DESERVE TO GET THE *most* OUT.



Stacey Shanner, Realtor®

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(866) 458-4226

Front of Tear Out Card 2

NO'TELLA

- 1 oz. cocoa butter
- 3½ oz. dates, pitted and soaked in water overnight
- ¾ c. hazelnut butter
- ¼ c. cocoa powder
- 1 pinch salt
- ½ c. plus 2 tbsp. plant-based milk

Optional: 1 pinch bourbon vanilla powder or other ground spices of your choice



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Back of Tear Out Card 2

1. Heat the cocoa butter in a small saucepan until melted.
2. Purée the dates with ⅓ to ½ cup of the soaking water until you have a thick paste. Add the hazelnut butter, cocoa powder, and salt then process until smooth and creamy. Finally, add the melted cocoa butter and plant-based milk and process again.
3. If you like, add vanilla powder or other spices to the creamy paste. Transfer to a storage jar with a lid and store in a cool place.

TIP: A pretty jar of this hazelnut and chocolate spread makes a lovely gift, and it is delicious eaten with a sweet yeast loaf or some banana bread. It will keep for at least 4–5 days if refrigerated in an airtight container—if you can resist eating it for that long.

Recipes taken from *Let's Go Nuts* by Estella Schweizer (Prestel, April 2022). Photography by Winfried Heinze.



MAKES 1 MEDIUM JAR

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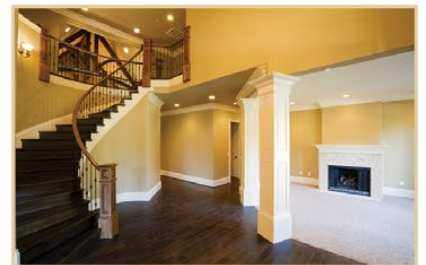
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