

## Getting Your Home Summer-Ready

Summer officially arrives this month, so to help make your summer go swimmingly (pun intended), here's a handy checklist of tips to get your condo ready:

- Gather all your summer necessities into a basket and place it at your front door to easily grab and go (e.g., sunglasses, sunscreen, bug repellent, etc.).
- Schedule a maintenance check-up for your A/C if you have one.
- Clean and organize your balcony.
- Find ways to help keep the temperature cooler, such as repairing damaged caulking or weather stripping, unplugging appliances when not in use, and making the switch to LED light bulbs.
- Check that your summer gear is clean and functioning (e.g., bikes, tents, beach umbrella, beach chairs, etc.).
- Inspect door and window screens to see if any need to be repaired or replaced.



- If condo rules permit, consider keeping a clothes drying rack on your balcony to save money on your energy bill.
- Swap out your accent pillow covers for summery vibes, such as bright colours or floral prints.

Once your home is summer-ready, you can enjoy the fresh summer breeze that comes in through your windows even more. Happy Summer!



## Streamlining Your Garden Work

Do you find that watering plants is more of a chore than anything else? If your answer is "yes," then you may be interested in knowing more about automatic watering systems.

One option is a **drip irrigation system**, which releases the right amount of water directly into the soil where needed. A slow drip of water is released through tubing with emitters connected to a water source, such as a water storage tub.

**Wicking systems** are another option for containers that draw water up from a built-in reservoir at the bottom of a container.

For a simple DIY option, you can use an **upturned plastic bottle** placed near the roots of a plant. Make small holes in the cap with a nail and hammer for the slow release of water and cut off the bottom of the bottle so you can refill it. You can also buy **discreet or decorative watering spikes** you can place in containers that work the same way as an upturned bottle.

Having an automated watering system can offer **peace of mind when you are away**, while also saving you time so you can enjoy your plants without having to spend as much time maintaining them.

## Bringing the Outdoors In

Biophilic design, which is essentially bringing elements of nature into your condo's décor, is one of the most popular design trends for 2025 according to design experts. So, what are some of the ways to create nature vibes in your home?

- **Add greenery** — House plants of different sizes, as well as trailing ones, such as pothos can improve air quality and increase focus.
- **Bring in the natural light** — Open blinds and curtains to maximize the amount of natural light coming into your condo. It helps regulate sleep, boosts productivity, and improves mood.
- **Integrate natural materials** — Elements such as wood, stone, bamboo, and tree bark add dimension and a sense of timelessness.
- **Include curvy shapes** — These shapes emulate nature and exude an inviting atmosphere, while straight lines and sharp edges tend to feel more artificial.
- **Let the water flow** — The sounds of water flowing from a small fountain can help create a calming effect.
- **Incorporate fire** — An electric fireplace is a way of incorporating one of the four elements of nature (fire, air, water, and earth) indoors.

For more ideas and inspiration on how to transform your home into a nature-inspired retreat, check out the plethora of design ideas online.

