



Happy Spring!

The flowers are blooming and the spring showers have arrived! In this month's newsletter check out: an article about items to keep in your car in case of emergencies, Spring cleaning tips, an uplifting story about a young boys mission to buy his mom a car, and a delicious and easy spring recipe!





In this issue:

- [1. Four Essential Items That You Should Always Have in Your Car](#)
- [2. 7 Practical Spring Cleaning Tips to Freshen Your Home](#)
- [3. What's Making Us Happy](#)
- [4. Spring Recipe: Strawberry Goat Cheese Bruschetta](#)

Four Essential Items That You Should Always Have in Your Car



The road can be an unpredictable beast. Whether you are driving to work or are on a road trip, you never know what you might encounter around the next turn. As such, you should endeavor to be prepared for just about any situation that may arise on the road.

As part of your efforts to be ready for anything, you will need to ensure that you have the following four items in your vehicle at all times:

1. Jumper Cables

One of the most important things for you to have with you at all times is a good set of jumper cables. Even if you have a brand new car, you never know when it could develop a technical glitch. Of course, the cables make even more sense if your ride is a few years old. This accessory is particularly vital if you are planning a long road trip. After all, the last thing you want is to be stranded several hundred miles from home because your car won't start.

2. Multipurpose Flashlight

You can never predict when your car might break down. If it should happen to run into difficulties late at night, you will need to have a flashlight on hand to take a look under the hood. The other potentially lifesaving benefit of a multipurpose flashlight is that you can use it to break open a window should you ever become stuck inside of the vehicle for any reason.

3. Seatbelt Cutter

If you have been involved in an accident and need to get out of your vehicle in a hurry because of a fire, the last thing you want is to become trapped because of your seatbelt. As such, you should always have a seatbelt cutter in the car with you. There are cutters that are as small and compact as a keychain so there is really no reason why you shouldn't carry one with you.

4. Traction Mat

If your vehicle should happen to get stuck in snow or a sludgy surface, a traction mat can help the car's tires to regain grip and escape from the situation. The mat's spiky surface also ensures that the tires do not slide sideways, instead, keeping them in a straight line. Traction mats are available at pretty affordable prices, so you should always try to have one with you.

In Closing

You never know what dangers may be lurking around the corner. However, by carrying these four essential items in your vehicle at all times, you can keep yourself, your friends, and your family safe, no matter what the road throws at you.



7 Practical Spring Cleaning Tips to Freshen Your Home

You have enjoyed staying tucked all winter watching the television, but now spring is knocking, and you no longer have an excuse for staying in a dingy house. While you swept and tidied here and there during winter, there was not much you could do then. But now, buds are sprouting and the sun is beginning to stick around longer. It is time to give your house a much-deserved spring cleaning to brighten it up. Wondering where to start? No worries. Here are handy spring cleaning tips to help you along:

Start by decluttering

Springtime is an ideal time to declutter your home. Gather old, broken and unwanted items such as books, clothes, toys, furniture, and ornaments and sort them into piles.

Mark each pile depending on whether the items in it are for storage, charity, or recycling. Decluttering is not only therapeutic; it also makes the home look tidier.

Gather your cleaning kit

Before you embark on the cleaning process, gather your cleaning supplies and make sure you have everything you need at hand. Basic cleaning items in your kit should include brushes, paper towels, sponges, rubber gloves, bleach, and glass polish. You also need a reliable all-purpose cleaner, cloths, and bin bags.

Work top-down

When spring-cleaning your home, start by cleaning the ceiling including light fixtures before getting to the floor. Mopping or vacuuming the floor should be the final act when everything else in the room is clean. When you use the top-down approach, earlier jobs will not make the floor dirty forcing you to repeat the process.

Clean curtains and blinds

Curtains are usually overlooked during cleaning sessions but can collect a substantial amount of dirt and dust. Before cleaning your curtains, check their labels to find out if they can be dry cleaned or machine washed.

For effective cleaning of curtains, vacuum both sides to get rid of as much dust as possible. Alternatively, you can steam clean the curtains. If your blinds are metallic, wooden or plastic, wiping them down with an appropriate cleaner or dry cloth is enough to clean them.

Clean carpets and upholstery

Fabrics absorb a lot of oil, germs, and dirt during winter. To get them ready for another year of wear, they require deep cleaning. You can opt to hire professional cleaning services or go the DIY way. If you would rather DIY, vacuum your upholstery and carpets using a dry upholstery attachment. To loosen dirt or debris embedded in the

fabric, use a stiff-bristle brush.

Mattress cleaning

To clean your mattress, remove all beddings and use a vacuum cleaner to get rid of accumulated dust and hair in the mattress. If there are visible stains, spot clean using a damp cloth and a stain remover. To absorb the moisture after spot cleaning, sprinkle baking soda on the mattress and allow it to sit for several hours before vacuuming it.

Freshen the rugs

Cleaning your rugs will not only freshen your home but also help in getting rid of odors. To clean your rugs, hang them out on a washing line and use the handle of a sweeping brush to beat them. This will assist in removing most of the dirt, debris, and dust embedded in the rugs. Once you have removed most of the dirt, vacuum the rugs to get rid of fine dirt and finish by applying shampoo to freshen them up.

Ultimately, spring is the most ideal time for deep cleaning your home. So, now that the dark, cold, wintry days are over, get busy freshening your home using the spring cleaning tips stipulated above.

What's Making Us Happy

13-Year-old Boy Traded His Xbox and Did Yard Work So He Could Buy His Mom a Car

By

[McKinley Corbley](#)

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Not many 13-year-old boys can say that they were able to buy a car, let alone a car for their mother – but that is exactly what William Preston did last week.

William’s mom, Krystal Preston, has been struggling to make ends meet since their family was forced to start over after an “unfortunate situation”.

Since the single mother has been trying to provide for her three kids at their home in Fernley, Nevada, she has had no means of transportation – up until now.

William was first inspired to give his mom a car after he spent some time watching videos of people giving cars to their mothers on Youtube. He later saw his chance to make his dream a reality when he saw that a woman on Facebook was trying to sell her 1999 Toyota Metro for a cheap price.

The teenager reached out to the woman and asked if she was willing to trade him the car for his Xbox, along with some money that he had earned from doing yard work and house cleaning for people in his community.

At first, the woman was hesitant, but after some negotiating, she eventually

accepted his offer and drove the car over to William's house.

When William told his mom that he had gotten a car for her, she did not believe him. He then led her out to the driveway where the Toyota was waiting for her – and she could not contain her emotions.

“I lost it, I bawled so bad, I was just like, ‘There’s no way.’ What 13-year-old do you know buys their mom a car? I don’t know any, never heard of any,” Preston told KOLO. “I can’t even express it, like there’s no words that can express my gratitude and how proud I am.”

Watch the video [here](#)

Strawberry Goat Cheese Bruschetta



Ingredients:

1/2 cup balsamic vinegar

12 slices Italian bread

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 pound strawberries, washed and diced

2 teaspoons fresh thyme leaves, plus more for serving

1 cup goat cheese, room temperature

salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Prep: 10 minutes

Cook: 15 minutes

Ready In: 25 minutes

Heat vinegar in a small skillet over medium-low heat. Simmer until reduced by about half, 8 to 10 minutes. Remove from heat and allow to cool to room temperature.

Prepare a grill for high heat. Place bread slices on a foil-lined baking sheet and drizzle with olive oil.

Combine strawberries and thyme in a small bowl and set aside.

Grill bread on the preheated grill until browned, about 3 minutes per side.

Spread goat cheese on toasted bread. Add black pepper, salt, and reduced vinegar to the strawberry mixture. Spoon over the goat cheese topped bruschetta. Garnish with additional thyme.

You might also like

Strawberry Goat Cheese Bruschetta

A somewhat sweet, mostly savory, all delicious appetizer—or even dessert.

Cook's Note:

You can toast the bread under the broiler instead of on a grill if

needed.

Nutrition Facts

Per Serving: 303 calories; 15.2 g fat; 29.9 g carbohydrates; 12.3 g protein; 30 mg cholesterol; 460 mg sodium

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