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Aggie's 10 Top Tips for a Safer Summer Spruce-up.

Aggie MacKenzie, of Channel 4's 'How Clean Is Your House?', knows that the summer holiday can make for a busy time at home. The constant coming and going of the children and their friends can wreak havoc on any recent spring-cleaning. Here are AGGIE'S top tips on how to keep your home safe and clean for the summer season.

- Safety first: when you're using cleaning products be sure to replace the childproof cap after each use; store them in a locked cupboard, out of the reach of children; and buy products containing a bittering additive, like Bitrex®, to help prevent accidental poisoning.
- You want to get that fresh summer breeze circulating through the house, so if you're opening windows be sure to fit them with childproof catches to stop your adventurous offspring climbing out.
- Minimise the use of extension cables and be sure to tidy them away once you've finished. Safety covers for electrical outlets are a good idea too.
- With the kids thundering through the kitchen, you'll no doubt find a trail of dirty scuffmarks on your vinyl flooring. These can be easily removed with a plain old pencil eraser.
- In warm weather, drains tend to get especially smelly. By pouring down some washing soda crystals and boiling water, it's not so hard to get them smelling sweet again.
- Keep your gardening equipment and tools out of the reach of children. If your child keeps their bike in the shed, think about the other things that are stored in there. Keep herbicides and other poisonous garden products out of the reach of children. If using things like slug pellets, it's again important to look for indications that the product contains a bittering agent.
- It's the time of year to be out in the garden, tidying up fences and flowerbeds. However, if you are keen on recycling and reusing, it is important to remember how dangerous it is to store wood stains and other chemicals in old jars and juice bottles, especially around children.
- Be sure to clean all your BBQ and outdoor cooking equipment and store it away safely after each use.
- In warm, humid weather, bacteria can really multiply in your dishcloth. Keep it clean by chucking it in the dishwasher (if you have one) with the rest of the load.
- If you're moving furniture for that really thorough clean, make sure it's stable and won't topple when your toddler uses it for support.

[Aggie Mackenzie – www.aggimackenzie.co.uk](http://www.aggimackenzie.co.uk)

[Bitrex® - www.bitrex.com](http://www.bitrex.com)

[Child Accident Prevention Trust – www.capt.org.uk](http://www.capt.org.uk)