



April 2020

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STANDARD HOUSE WASH

All house washing work, no matter the style of house, is largely similar as house washing is the process of removing all foreign material from the house.

A standard wash consists of – removing all cobwebs, cleaning the outside edge of guttering, eaves, barge boards, gable ends, flashings, all cladding, outside of windows, doors and exterior frame and paint work.

Use a low pressure chemical nozzle to apply a soft house wash solution to one wall of the house (apply from the bottom of the house up to avoid streaks), make sure every inch of surface is wet with chemicals and allow it to soak into the dirt and grime for between 1 and 3 minutes so that it's easier to wash off. Then using your hose nozzle, thoroughly rinse off all foreign matter from the house before the chemical dries up.

Use a brush to loosen up any remaining dirt around door and window frames and rinse again so that you don't have to use as much pressure when washing around window edges. Repeat the process on the next area.

Time saving tip: when a home has balconies or porches with balustrades, wash the outside edge of the porch and balustrades first and wash the house last. The dirt that gets squirted from the balustrades towards the house can then be rinsed off the house when it comes to washing the house.

GARDEN TIPS FOR APRIL

- 1. Renovate the vegetable garden** by taking out spent crops and vines such as corn and tomatoes.

2. **Plant** autumn vegetable and herb crops such as cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, parsley and coriander. Sow carrots, broad beans and celeriac.
3. **Plant new trees**, shrubs or a fast-growing vine on a hot pergola. Ornamental grapevines provide autumn colour and summer shade.
4. **Take cuttings** from geraniums, succulents and fuchsias.
5. **Plant bulbs** for spring and winter-flowering in containers.
6. **Cut back** dead or withered summer flowers close to the ground. Grasses and other sturdy plants can be left to provide winter structure and seeds for birds.
7. **Buy colourful indoor plants** such as cyclamen and chrysanthemum whilst they are in flower and keep them in a well-lit position.
8. **Compost fallen leaves**, grass clippings, kitchen scraps and shredded prunings, remembering to turn them periodically with a garden fork.
9. **Prune the hedges before winter, keeping them compact and bushy.**