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SPRING CLEANING YOUR HOME TO SELL *Timely Advice For This Season's Home Sellers*

ST. LOUIS (March 14, 2011) – There's no doubt that homeowners have sprung into action to get their homes into the best shape for buyers taking advantage of low interest rates and attractive home prices. But when it comes to spring-cleaning time, sellers just need a little elbow grease to make their homes more attractive and appealing to this season's buyers. HomeGain recently conducted a survey of nearly 600 real estate agents nationwide to determine the top 10 home improvements for home sellers. Number one was cleaning and de-cluttering.

"Historically, spring is a popular time to put a home on the market but it's also more competitive," said Jim Dohr, president of Coldwell Banker Gundaker. "It's wise to get an early start on those improvement projects around the house, so you are ready to put your house on the market at the beginning of the busy season."

To be efficient in prepping your home for a spring sale, consider this advice:

- **Think green.** Tidy up your yard by mowing the grass and trimming any bushes or shrubs. Plant flowers to help add color and accentuate your home. If your yard is looking neglected and needs a boost in the right direction then hiring a landscape architect may be an option for you. Investing in your home's landscape can help increase the property value.
- **De-clutter.** Disorganization is not appealing and makes a home feel smaller. You want potential buyers to imagine your home as their new home. Stage your interior by removing unnecessary furniture and leaving your space neat and clean. Don't overlook the obvious clutter that rests on the kitchen counter or bedside table.
- **Deep clean.** Cleaning your home from top to bottom and not excluding those often forgotten spaces is key. Washing the inside and outside of the windows, dusting off baseboards, and shampooing the carpet are a few things buyers will notice. Remember, they are seeing your house for the first time and inspecting every detail, don't give them any reason to question whether the house has been well taken care of.

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