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## HOMEOWNER'S UPDATE

### Simple Home Updates

If you want to refresh your home decor but don't have a lot to spend, the following affordable updates can make a significant difference.

#### Paint

Adding a fresh coat of paint is one of the easiest and least expensive ways to make a big impact. Choose colors that make you happy and reflect your style.

#### Lighting

Outdated light fixtures can age your home. Replace them with modern lighting to brighten and refresh your rooms and exterior.

#### Hardware Finishes

Scratched and mismatched finishes on doorknobs, hinges, light switches, and outlet covers can date your interior style. Swap out old hardware for a simple, inexpensive way to bring cohesion to your space.

#### Front Door

If the outside of your home could use an update, paint or replace your front door. Everyone who visits will notice the change.

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### Declutter, Purge & Reorganize Your Stuff

Decluttering may not be your idea of fun, but if you can get past taking those first steps, it can be enjoyable and satisfying.

Mentally fast-forward past the un-fun parts like making all those decisions about what you do and don't want to keep. Imagine yourself at the next phase.

Now that you've opened up all this new space, find other fun ways to show your curated collectibles and household items. For example, try hanging tools or pots and pans on a decorative pegboard. Add some personality by painting,

framing or covering the board in fabric. You can also decorate a coordinating magnetized board for cutlery.

To add even more space in your kitchen, install pull-out drawers in large cabinets or insert a slim pull-out pantry in the space between the wall and your refrigerator. Hang a mug or cup collection with attractive hooks.

Take advantage of unused spaces under the stairs by installing drawers or cabinets. This space can be used to store things like sports equipment, out-of-season footwear or extra cleaning supplies.

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## Fool-Proof Paint Colors

Finding the perfect paint color is no easy task. Test different tints, tones and shades to find the best colors for your space and lighting conditions. If you're stumped by all the possibilities, these fool-proof options are a great place to start.

### White

White walls create a clean, bright environment.

### Black

Black is the perfect contrast for neutral spaces. Choose warmer tones to avoid purple or blue hues.

### Charcoal

Halfway between gray and black, charcoal is a neutral backdrop that makes a statement, whether it's on one wall or all four.

### Olive Green

Greens are trending in kitchens and on exteriors. Embrace green by choosing an olive shade for an accent wall or trim.

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## Easy Ways To Deep Clean Your Home

Spring cleaning can be overwhelming, but here are a few ways to simplify the process and make your home sparkle.

### Use the Dishwasher

You can save the elbow grease and use your dishwasher to clean metal vent covers, soap dishes, toys, and more.

### Soak Showerheads

To clear your dingy showerhead of soap scum or hard water stains, simply fill a plastic bag with white vinegar, secure it to the showerhead with a rubber band, and let it soak overnight.

### Iron the Carpet

Spray set-in carpet stains with a mixture of one part white vinegar and three parts water, then cover with a clean cloth. Set your iron to its highest steam setting and run it over the cloth for several seconds. When combined, the vinegar mixture and steam will transfer the stain from the carpet to the cloth.

### Refresh Mattresses

To freshen up your mattresses, sprinkle on some baking soda and allow it to sit for at least an hour. Finish by vacuuming up the baking soda, leaving mattresses refreshed and deodorized.

### Steam the Microwave

To remove tough food splatters, fill a microwave-safe bowl with two cups of cold water and a tablespoon of white vinegar. Microwave the mixture for 5 minutes, allowing the steam to loosen the food stains. Residue should easily wipe away.

### Dust With a Dryer Sheet

Use dryer sheets to attract and trap dust on tables, blinds and other dusty surfaces.

### Deodorize the Garbage Disposal

Eliminate odors and residue by running a few lemon slices, ice cubes and some salt through the garbage disposal.

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## Chicken-Artichoke Orzo

### Ingredients

4 grilled chicken breasts  
2 Tbsp. avocado oil  
½ onion, chopped  
1 garlic clove, minced  
¼ tsp. red pepper flakes  
½ cup chicken broth  
1 (14 oz.) can quartered artichoke hearts, drained  
1 (16 oz.) pkg. orzo pasta  
2 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar  
1 cup crumbled Feta cheese  
½ cup Kalamata olives  
3 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped

### Directions

Grill 4 chicken breasts and set aside. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium. Stir in onions, garlic and red pepper flakes. Cook until onions are translucent, then increase heat to medium-high. Pour broth into skillet, and cook for 3 minutes. Reduce heat to low, then add chicken and artichoke hearts. Cover and cook until warm.

Cook orzo pasta according to package directions. Combine with chicken mixture and stir in balsamic vinegar. Top with cheese, olives and parsley.

*Serves 4*



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