

# august home checklist

**prepare your drop zone** 

Give the mudroom a makeover, or re-organize your landing strip. If you have a dedicated space for shoes, backpacks, and other gear, you'll feel more coordinated when you head out the door, and less overwhelmed when you come home each day.

**declare war on dust** 

No matter what you do, the dust is all around you. It comes from dirt flying through open doors and windows, pollen, air conditioner vents, insects — you name it. The best you can do is beat it back, and minimize the surfaces it will cling to in the future.

**store away all your summer stuff** 

There's probably lots of time left for bicycles in late August, but not so much for the canoe and pool noodles. Put away the gear you're no longer using, and clear the clutter. Better yet, get rid of anything that's broken or not useful anymore, so it doesn't rear its ugly head next summer.

**have one last fling with the season** 

Go on a last minute road trip, preserve some flowers — basically squeeze the last drops out of summer before you head back to school or work with gusto.

**organize vacation memories** 

Your pics of the Grand Canyon won't upload themselves. Put them into some sort of digital album, or print them to display, while the memories are still fresh in your mind. You won't care as much to do it next year, but you'll always appreciate running across them in the future.

**set up a shared calendar** 

This is one of those minor tasks that yields huge results all year long. Whether it's a paper calendar tacked on the wall that your family can all see, or a digital version you share with your besties, you can compare schedules, coordinate events, and make sure everyone is on the same page.

**check your locks** 

Leaving home for vacation in the summer means that unattended homes. Home burglaries rise during this time so check your locks, install deadbolts, put lights on self timers, and secure windows to prevent some random person from breaking in and stealing your stuff.

**clean your fridge** 

Planned dinners are about to become more important. Get rid of any container with an expiration date that says January 2014 and give all the shelves a good wipe down. If you're feeling motivated, tackle the freezer too and get it ready for all your summer bounty.

**plan for a big purchase** 

A lot of tax-free weekends fall in August. Find out the dates for your state and buy that computer you need, or any other big purchase to save a little money.

**clean out your closets** 

The big fall conversion is just a few weeks away, when all the cooler weather clothes come out, and the summer digs get put away. Get organized now, and you'll be ready for new wardrobe essentials come September.