

TACLB45376E  
EPA Certified

Residential  
VISA M.C. 1578

**ACE**

**Air Conditioning & Heating  
Service & Installation**

**"The Alpha & Omega of Service."**  
Providing Honest, Reliable & Quality work  
@ a price you can afford.

Call to inquire about a Maintenance Plan  
**903-388-1383**  
Lorenzo Hart - Tech

**CORSICANA  
GLASS & MIRROR CO.**

**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL**

Mirrors • Plate Glass • Shelves  
Furniture Tops • Custom Shower & Tub Enclosures  
Door & Window Glass Replacements • Vinyl Window Replacement  
Commercial Storefront Repairs & Replacements  
Picture Framing

SINCE 1964  
Paula Jones - Owner

**903-872-6526** Emergencies after 5:00 p.m.  
903-872-3708

**2400 NORTH BEATON • CORSICANA, TX**

**NAPA AUTO PARTS**

Stop by for ALL your SPRING CAR CARE needs.  
**BAYLESS AUTO SUPPLY**  
Highway 75 & 84 in Fairfield

**MEXIA**  
Gibbs Memorial Library

Coming in July  
(Tues & Thurs @ 2:30pm)

**COLOR OUR WORLD**

305 E. Rusk Street, Mexia  
254.562.3231 | GibbsLibraryMexia.org  
Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## Spring Cleaning Pointers

Spring is a season of renewal. When the flowers are blooming and the trees are budding and the weather is pleasantly warm, people often feel inspired to make changes around their homes. Work may begin with culling belongings and organizing essentials.

Spring cleaning is a ritual for many today. As people embark on their plans to tidy up, these tips can help them along.

### Tackle one big task a day

Who hasn't started one project only to be distracted into moving along to another room? This often occurs when people discover something out of place in one space and then move that item where it belongs, only to find a new cleaning task at hand in that space. Inefficiency can make you give up on spring cleaning prematurely. Agree to address one room/task a day. Keep a basket or box handy to store errant items until you move on to the next room.

### Stock up on supplies

Prepare all of the cleaning supplies in advance. Put together a tool kit of sorts with the equipment you need, including mops, brooms, rags, cleansers, and the like. Organization can keep you on course.

### Harness your strengths and weaknesses

Some people clean because they are stressed or angry, others do so to avoid other tasks. Keep personality in mind when establishing a cleaning schedule. For example, clean at night if you're a night owl,



or wait until you are feeling antsy before embarking on a 'calm down cleaning.'

### Tackle seasonal chores first

Some tasks need to get done to prepare for the spring and summer season. These may include cleaning the grill and sorting through outdoor furniture and decor. Spring cleaning may involve readying the pool for another year of use, or cleaning out rain gutters to prepare for spring storms. Tackle time-dependent tasks first and then move on to others that are less time-sensitive.

### Spread out the work

Some people like to devote full weekends to spring cleaning, but that can be overwhelming for others. Breaking down cleaning tasks into 15- to 30-minute intervals each day can make the job more tolerable. Spring cleaning season has arrived, and certain tips can make the job more efficient and manageable

**M Metal Mart**  
THE RIGHT MATERIALS FOR THE RIGHT PRICE!

conveniently located  
**IN FAIRFIELD!**

**Steel Building Materials,  
Custom Trim & Flashing, Fabricated On-Site**

**Let us help  
with your  
Spring  
Projects!**

**903-389-2764 888-509-5383**  
**www.MetalMarts.com**  
**440 W. Interstate 45, Fairfield**  
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed for Lunch 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Thanks  
for Supporting  
Our Local Shops  
& Restaurants!

**We have MOVED!**

**Beltone**  
is now located at:  
**110 North Sherman St.**  
Mexia, TX 76667  
**254-562-7771**  
the most trusted name in Hearing Care.

**Let us help you this  
SPRING with your  
new Projects!**

LONG Industries, Inc. is one of the Nation's leading providers of API storage tanks and ASME pressure vessels. Having diverse capabilities of providing both shop built and field erected equipment.

**LONG INDUSTRIES INC.**  
Buffalo - Teague - Mexia  
San Angelo  
www.longindustries.us/careers  
**903-389-3263**

**Local Journalism Helps  
Protect Our Community.**  
Your Support Helps Protect Local Journalism.

**SUBSCRIBE NOW!**

The Times  
903-389-NEWS  
www.FreestoneCountyTimes.com  
www.TexasPublicNotices.com

# Prevent Rabbit Damage in Your Landscape

by Melinda Myers

Rabbits are year-round and frequent visitors to gardens and landscapes. As children, we read about and adored these furry critters. This love of rabbits often faded as we grew older and experienced damage to our gardens and landscapes. Employing various management strategies allows us to co-exist with these cute yet voracious members of our community.

Rabbits eat a wide range of plants including flowers, vegetables, and weeds throughout the spring and summer. As these plants fade in fall, they begin dining on trees and shrubs. You may find bark gnawed, evergreen needles nibbled, and branches, stems and buds clipped off the plants.

Their sharp teeth make a clean cut much like a bypass pruner at a 45-degree angle. Rabbit damage usually occurs within three feet of the ground where they can easily reach and dine on the plants. Look for tracks and droppings, often called pellets, if additional clues are needed. The pellets are little, round, hard, and usually yellowish brown to green.

Our landscapes provide the perfect habitat for rabbits. They tend to concentrate in open grassy areas that have patches of desirable cover like brush piles, shrubs, and gardens that provide an escape from predators.

These short-lived mammals tend to be very productive, giving birth to two to six litters of four or more babies in a season. Diseases, weather, predators, hunters, and cars help limit the number of surviving offspring.

Start by removing hiding places like brush piles, weed patches, and stone piles that provide places for rabbits to live and hide. Work with your neighbors who may not realize they are housing rabbits feeding in both of your yards. Leave a few

weeds and perhaps some clover in the lawn as an alternate food source for them.

You will find lists of rabbit-resistant plants, but as gardeners know they will eat just about any plants when populations are high, and food is scarce. Protecting key gardens and plants will help reduce the risk of damage and increase your enjoyment.

Fencing is an effective management strategy but may not be practical or aesthetically pleasing. When employing fencing, be sure it is high enough to keep rabbits out and the openings are 1 inch or less. A 3-foot-tall fence with an outward baffle at the top or one 4-foot tall is more effective. Secure the fence tight to the ground or bury the bottom a few inches to prevent rabbits from crawling under. Check the gate, adding flaps and sweeps as needed to prevent rabbits from gaining access to the garden.

Use 4-foot-tall cylinders of hardware cloth around young trees and shrubs to prevent damage. Place the cylinder several inches away from the trunk and bury the bottom a few inches in the soil to prevent rabbit and vole damage.

Repellents are a less obtrusive option and more practical for many gardeners. Select a product labeled for rabbit control and preferably an organic option like Plantskydd (plantskydd.com). This odor-based repellent is rain and snow resistant so you will need to reapply less often. Whenever possible, apply repellents before the rabbits begin feeding and follow the label directions for the best results.

Evaluate and adapt your landscape design as needed and continually monitor for damage. Employ various strategies to help reduce rabbit damage while boosting your enjoyment and the garden's productivity.



**RABBITS EAT A WIDE** range of plants, including flowers, vegetables, weeds, trees, and shrubs.  
(Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com)

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by *Tree World Plant Care* for her expertise in writing this article. Her website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

**Offering expert Collision Repair  
Tire Sales, Accessory Sales,  
Brakes, and Installation**

..... EST 1987 ..... **We Accept Insurance!**

**EDDIE'S** 903.389.2912  
475 W. Commerce  
Fairfield, Texas

APPROVED PROVIDER FOR FLEET SERVICES

Holman DONLEN Interprice wheels Firestone element

**Bonnie's Greenhouse**

Antique Roses. Perennials, Annuals,  
Herbs, Vegetables, Iris, Daylillies,  
Native Plants, Heirloom Plants,  
Household Plants, and Organic Products

5198 Orchard Lane - Waco, TX 76705

**254-799-7909**

*Come Walk Through The Garden & Enjoy Yourself!*

Mon-Sat | 8:30 - 4:00

VISA Mastercard DISCOVER

**See us for ALL your Spring Project needs!**



**Lyle Oil Company** **Parker Auto Supply**  
(903) 389-2239 (903) 389-2432

111 S. Fairway Street - Fairfield, Texas

# Factors to consider when mulling a garage renovation

Garages may rank below kitchens and bathrooms in the home renovation pecking order, but these unsung heroes of suburban dwellings deserve their day in the sun. It's easy for garages to become convenient, if crowded and disorganized, storage spaces, but scores of homeowners are embracing the idea that renovated garages can serve a more functional purpose.

Prior to beginning a garage renovation, homeowners can consider a host of factors that will guide the direction of the project and ultimately produce a more functional space.

-- **Appeal:** Though many homeowners understandably want to ensure their homes are amenable to their own lifestyles without worrying about the effects a given project might have on resale value, it's best that they do not completely ignore the latter variable. A 2019 analysis from the National Association of Home Builders found that 65 percent of newly constructed homes included two-car garages. That suggests a traditional two-car garage remains widely appealing. However, it's worth noting that the NAHB analysis was conducted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, when fewer people were working from home. Now that more people work from home, some may see a garage converted into a home office space as more functional. Homeowners can speak with a local real estate agent to learn more about local buyers' preferences before beginning a garage renovation project.

-- **Function of the space:** It's important to consider why you want to renovate the garage. Is it to build a designated home office space? A fully outfitted home gym? A home theater? An extra bedroom? An in-laws suite? Each of these options are popular reasons to renovate a garage, and each may require a different approach during the project. The desired function also may affect the cost, so it's best to identify precisely what the room will be used for post-renovation.

-- **The existing space:** When mulling a garage renovation, contact a local garage conversion expert to audit the space. Such a professional can assess the existing space and determine what will need to be done beyond the design of the room. Will additional electrical outlets need to be installed? Will the room require additional ventilation? Will a new doorway need to be created to allow for easier access? These are questions a qualified expert can answer. Some may estimate the cost as well, but it's likely the garage expert will defer estimates regarding electric and ventilation to contractors who specialize in those areas.

-- **Storage:** The home renovation experts at Angi estimate that the average garage remodel costs around \$18,000. That's considerably less than a home addition project, which can easily exceed six figures. So a garage remodel might be more budget-friendly than a room addition. However, homeowners should consider what's currently in their garages and where those items will end up if the room is repurposed. If it's primarily lawn care items and kids' toys, a new shed with ample storage space might work. But if the garage currently holds more items than can reasonably fit in a shed, homeowners should determine where those items can be stored once the garage is repurposed.

Garage renovation projects can make these spaces more functional, making them worthy of consideration among homeowners who feel like they need some additional space at home.



**KDT CONSTRUCTION, INC.**

**SAND AND GRAVEL**  
Backhoe, Dump Trucks,  
Dozer, Trackhoe,  
Septic Systems, Driveways

*We provide quality and reliable services  
at reasonable rates, and ensure the superior  
service that you deserve - 100% Satisfaction*

**CALL US TODAY! 903.599.2319**  
Ken Sessions 903.388.5339 kdt@windstream.net

**Don't Let Spring Storms  
Catch You Unprepared.  
Cover Your Assets.**



**EAGLE  
INSURANCE SERVICE**

**903-389-2238**  
218 South Hall Street, Fairfield

**Mexia Pest Control**  
102 W. Tyler Street - Mexia, TX  
*Serving ALL of Freestone County*

**Residential - Commercial**  
**FREE ESTIMATES**

Contact us for all of your  
pest, termite, rodent, weed, and  
fertilization management needs

**254-562-6565**  
www.mexiapestcontrol.com

**LEHMAN'S  
Pipe & Steel, Inc.**

**New & Used Pipe - Sucker Rod**  
**Metal Roofing (Agricultural & Residential)**  
**Steel Building Components**

**East Texas' Most Complete Steel Service Center**

**803 ROBERTSON LOOP  
POLLOK, TEXAS**  
**936-853-2211 | 1-800-324-0565**  
lehmanpipeandsteel.com

## Small renovations that make a big impact

Homeowners may think they have to tear down walls or build room extensions to transform their homes with renovation projects. But small projects can yield impressive results, and that's something homeowners working with limited budgets can keep in mind.

There's no shortage of small projects that can change the look and feel of a home. Many of these undertakings can be achieved with a modest investment.

-- **Front door replacement:** A new front door instantly improves curb appeal and can make a home more secure and energy-efficient. Painting the existing front door is an even smaller project that still offers appeal.

-- **Lighting addition:** Whether a homeowner enlarges a window or adds



skylights, natural light can produce incredible results. Investing in new lighting can feel like expanding a space without pushing out walls.

-- **Kitchen and bath fixture upgrades:** Faucets and door pulls are used every day. Swapping existing fixtures for something a little more modern can unify spaces and provide subtle changes that enhance these popular spaces.

-- **Wood floor restoration:** Scuffing and scratches can adversely affect the pristine look of a natural wood floor. Homeowners can polish a floor to restore its shine. A professional service will sand down and refinish older floors at a fraction of the cost of a new floor installation.

-- **Exterior lighting:** Lighting isn't just important inside. A welcoming glow in the yard is awe-inspiring. There are many energy-efficient lighting options, including ones that do not need to be hard-wired to the circuitry inside the home.

-- **Staircase renovation:** Coordinate the staircase to the style in the home with a decorative carpet runner. A secure

runner is attractive and can help reduce slipping down the stairs. Tighten shaky railings or replace them while upgrading the stair treads.

-- **Interior paint:** Change the color of walls, doors, cabinets, or even furniture with paint. All homeowners need is a paint color that inspires them and a little bit of time.

-- **Replace outlet covers:** Upgrade outlet covers with screwless options. Screwless plates for outlets and light switches can make walls look more sleek.

-- **Entry organizer installation:** Banish clutter from the home by catching it at the door. An entry organizer with spaces for shoes, coats, backpacks, and shopping bags can be eye-catching and functional.

-- **Carpets cleaning:** Soiled carpets can look drab and dingy. Homeowners can rent carpet-cleaning machines or hire services to revitalize carpets with a deep cleaning.

Small changes around a home can create a big impact without breaking the bank.

## Painting or cleaning this Spring? Set up your ladder safely!

- Follow these tips from the American Ladder Institute to set up your ladder safely before you begin any project.
- Check the ladder's duty rating label to ensure it can support you and your tools. If the job cannot be done safely from a ladder, use scaffolding or a lift.
- Inspect the ladder rungs, rails and rung locks before each use.
- Set the base of the ladder on a firm, level surface.
- Set the ladder at a proper angle: one foot out for every four feet of ladder height.
- Secure the base and top of the ladder.
- When using an extension ladder to access an upper level, the ladder should extend three feet above the roof edge.
- Do not work from the top three rungs of an extension ladder or from the top step of a step ladder.

Source: American Ladder Institute

*Subscribers Like You*  
**Make the Difference**

903-389-NEWS | www.freestonecountytimes.com