

JUNE

From your local
REAL ESTATE EXPERT



CARING FOR YOUR WOOD DECK

Wooden decks take a lot of abuse by the elements over a year, and now that summertime is quickly approaching, it's a great time to give your outdoor space a little TLC! Here is a quick and easy way to clean and finish your wood deck:

1. Gather everything you need – pump sprayer, pressure washer, deck cleaner, and deck stain.
2. Apply deck cleaner to every and all surfaces of your deck, including the vertical ones and in-between slats with the pump sprayer. Let it work for the recommended time.
3. Use the pressure washer (these can often be rented from your local hardware store) and wash the cleaner from the deck. Be aware that the pressure of the water can also damage the wood, so don't have the nozzle too close to the wood or spend too long in one place.
4. Perform any necessary repairs – pound in any nails that have lifted, and replace any boards that are damaged or rotting, and smooth out any rough spots with a sander.
5. Once the deck has dried thoroughly and repairs are completed, refinish it with a colored deck stain or clear sealer. These can come in a multitude of colors, and since they are thinner than paint, can be applied with the same pump sprayer that you used with the cleaner.
6. Immediately after spraying the sealer onto the wood, go back over it while it's still wet with a paintbrush to work the sealer into all the nooks and crannies of the wood and spread it evenly.

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BEST CHICKEN MARINADE

Ever!

Ingredients:

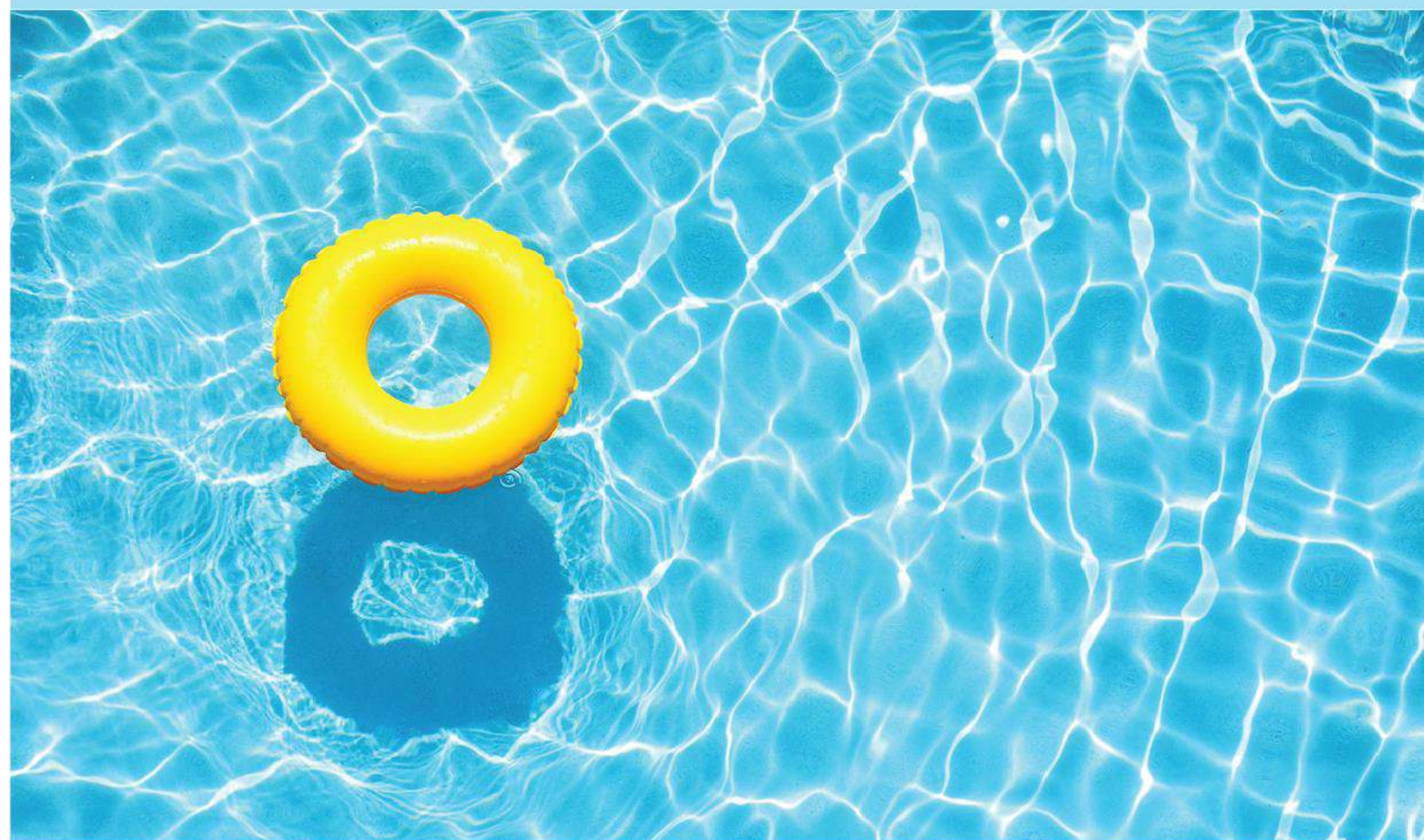
1/3 - 1/2 cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil depending on preference
 3 Tablespoons Fresh Lemon Juice
 3 Tablespoons Soy Sauce
 2 Tablespoons Balsamic Vinegar
 1/4 cup Brown Sugar
 1 Tablespoon Worcestershire Sauce
 3 Garlic Cloves minced or 1/2 teaspoon Garlic Powder
 1 1/2 teaspoon Salt
 1 teaspoon Pepper

Directions:

- In a bowl, stir together oil, lemon juice, soy sauce, balsamic vinegar, brown sugar, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, salt, and pepper.
- Pierce chicken breasts with a fork all over. Place in a large Ziploc bag. Pour marinade over chicken.
- Let marinate for at least 30 minutes. 4 - 5 hours is ideal.

Preparing Your Home For Summer

1. Replace air filters in your HVAC system and clear any clutter away from vents.
2. Ensure you're A/C is in proper working order, and repair as necessary.
3. Consider a programmable thermostat to save on your energy bills.
4. Check exterior vents, window wells, and caulking for any cracks or damage.
5. Inspect patios, porches, and decks for any damage.
6. Reseal your driveway.
7. Ensure your pool is in proper working order and is free of cracks or damage.
8. Clean your patio chairs and table, and clean your grill for the first BBQ of the season!



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