

AS SEEN IN SOUTH JERSEYTM MAGAZINE



Back in Shape

This crazy winter left many outdoor living spaces needing some TLC.

Because this winter did cause damage to many properties, your first step is an assessment. Wait until the snow melts and you get a nice day to go outside, advises Dan Young, owner of Young's Landscape Management, Inc. in Lumberton. Then do a thorough walk of your entire property. If you have tree damage, first decide if it can be repaired or if it should be removed completely. "If the main trunk is completely broken or if the tree is uprooted, it should be removed," Young says. "Check if there are any dangling branches or cracked limbs still in the trees overhead. There may also be broken branches or trees propped up by other trees and limbs."

After damage assessment and control, you might want to get started on the general cleanup process. Even a property that didn't suffer tree damage or other major issues has probably seen better days since this harsh winter. Something

as simple as picking up debris like fallen branches or lingering leaves can make a big difference. "Begin your spring lawn cleanup by picking up debris, including leaves, rocks, twigs and branches from your yard," advises Young. "If there is a lot of leaf litter scattered on your lawn, use a leaf blower or rake to gently remove it. The cleanup will make your yard look neater and promote new grass growth. Cleaning debris will also make it safer once you start operating your mower."

With spring around the corner, you can also start to "gear up" for a new season so that your equipment is ready to go with no downtime. "Get your outdoor power equipment ready now for the growing season," says Young. "Make sure your mower blades and tiller tines are sharp and that your mower belts are free of cracks, fraying and other signs of wear."