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Governor

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Secretary, Department of Health

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**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*Spring Cleaning – The Safe Way*  
**Prevent Injuries During Spring Cleaning**

While spring cleaning this year, put home safety at the top of your “To-Do” list. Unintentional injuries result in nearly 21 million medical visits each year, according to a report from the Home Safety Council. Here, from the Pinellas County Health Department and the Home Safety Council, are simple steps to follow during spring cleaning this year.

Tasks such as re-organizing closets and tackling a thorough spring cleaning job can put individuals at risk for falls and poisoning – the two leading causes of home injury in the U.S. Keep safe practices in mind while cleaning your home, garage and yard.

- Always keep stairs, steps, landings and floors clear of clutter.
- Buckets are often used when cleaning, and present a serious drowning danger to young children. Never leave a bucket or any standing water unattended.
- Follow instructions when using cleaning products. Do not mix products together because their contents could react – with dangerous results.
- Never use gasoline as a cleaning solvent and never use or store gasoline in your home, even in tiny quantities. Because its vapors can quickly ignite, it is too dangerous to use gasoline for any purpose other than as motor fuel.
- When cleaning out cabinets, read all labels carefully and separate those that say “Caution,” “Warning” or “Danger” on them. Lock these products up, out of sight and reach of young children.
- Remember to reduce clutter and safely tuck away telephone and electrical cords.
- If you need to climb, use a sturdy ladder. Before using, make sure the rungs are dry and the ladder is securely positioned on a flat surface.

Cleaning and organizing your home are important steps in creating a safe home environment. However, spring cleaning often involves climbing, lifting heavy objects and using strong chemical solutions – all potential safety hazards. So it’s important to take care during cleaning, not just during spring – but all year round.

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*The mission of the Pinellas County Health Department is to promote, protect and improve the health and safety of residents and visitors through public and private community efforts.*  
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