

RAIN READY

They may have just finished water proofing the outside of your building, but is your home ready for the onslaught of the monsoon? Follow a few of these tips before the first shower hits, says **Rhea Dhanbhoora**

Take a look at that brilliantly overcast sky outside your window today. While the monsoon is still a while away, the sky has been hinting at its onset for a while now. With it threatening to surprise us with an early shower or two, you should make sure that your home is prepped and ready for the monsoon. Here are a few simple tips to help you get started...

RAIN RAIN GO AWAY

Rain seeping into your home is a terrible experience. If you live on the top floor or in a house rather than an apartment, make sure your ceiling isn't going to let rain ruin your home. If you have sliding windows, seal them with rubber lining so that the gaps don't let water in. Waterproof any metal frames or grills you may have to keep them from getting rusty.

ALL DRIED OUT

It's no secret that a dry monsoon home is a happy one. The ceiling isn't the only thing that's collecting dampness though. The walls become damp as well. What you can do is make sure that the outside has been waterproofed well enough. You can also place silver foil in the damp areas of the room to prevent the problem from occurring.

A LITTLE BIT OF CAMPHOR

Camphor evaporates when left open and makes the surrounding area dry. So, while it isn't a good idea to leave it around during winter, the monsoon is the best season to let a piece of camphor lie open in a room.

STEP ALL OVER THIS DOORMAT

You will be socialising indoors a lot in the monsoon so invest in a waterproof doormat. It may not eliminate the dirt, but it will help reduce the amount of muck and rainwater that gets dragged in.

CUPBOARD CARE

Keep your cupboards (and your clothes and shoes) dry and moisture free by keeping a piece of camphor in there as well. Alternatively, you could also put a jar full of salt inside, or a saucer filled with cloves.

STOCK UP

Remember the floods that hit our city? Well, we pray every year that there is no repeat, but in case an emergency like that does occur again; you need to be well stocked up. Keep an adequate stock of food supplies, first aid kits, medical supplies, emergency lights, — whatever you think will help in a situation like that.



>> Making sure your windows are leak free will allow you to enjoy the monsoon without worry

Make your home cheerful this monsoon

The monsoon has a way of making you feel dull and ever so slightly melancholy. Dull colours such as beige, brown and navy blues might work for you, but they're not working for your home this season. Avoid dark cushion cases and drapes; they will only make you feel gloomy. Use bright reds, oranges, yellows and greens to brighten up your room. Also try and use your most cheerful crockery and push the duller colours out of site for the season.

POWER UP

Power cuts are more regular in this season than in any other. Keep yourself armed with a good supply of flashlights and electric lanterns. Also stock up on batteries, you never know how long the electricity will give up on you for so you never know how many you will need. It's better to avoid candles, but you could keep them around for emergencies as well. Matchsticks tend to get damp extremely fast in this season so we suggest keeping a lighter around instead.

DOCUMENTATION

Yes, we know, it's hard to keep track of every single important document that you have in your home. Which is why we suggest starting now. Store all the important documents you have in a waterproof folder, bag or box. Passports and birth certificates should be on the top of your list. Also make photocopies and keep them in another place, as well as computerised backups. Sounds like trouble, but it will be a lot less trouble than what you'll have to go through if you lose anything.

« TOP 5: USES OF ALREADY USED TEA BAGS



1. ANTI-AGING REMEDY

Tea contains antioxidants that fight free radicals. You can place a used tea bag on your skin, eyes, mouth or any area of the face you think is showing signs of premature ageing. Try using a warm tea bag as it is more relaxing.

2. GARDENING

Tea bags can be used as an organic fertiliser for potted house plants, with many stimulating benefits from the nutrients in the ingredients which help the plants grow. You can remove the bags and mix the tea leaves with soil as this will help absorb water and retain moisture. If your problem is that the base of the plant containers are leaking, you can use teabags to prevent the leakage.

3. HEALING YOUR BODY

Tea contains tannins which is good for body ailments. It has anti-inflammatory and antibacterial components which act champions against insect bites, razor cuts, sunburns, acne and warts.

4. TO REFRESH EYES

Tea bags are great for soothing puffy and tired eyes. Place them lukewarm or soaked in ice cold water and watch all your dark circles and puffiness fade away.

5. FOR HOUSEHOLD CLEANING

Tea can effectively remove grease and grime from surfaces such as mirrors, floors and even linoleum, so why not use your old bags to make a cold brew, then use it as a cleaning solution? Mop your linoleum or wooden flooring. Clean your kitchen countertops with it as well. You can use this for unpainted wooden furniture. Just make sure you wipe it thoroughly, so it won't stain.