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Home Care Center

Resources

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Resources for Homeowners

Home Care Advice From the Experts

Whether you're a new homeowner with lots of questions, or a long-time homeowner who wants to learn how to maintain your home like an expert, we've got you covered with a collection of helpful resources on a variety of popular topics. Things like how-to articles, maintenance checklists and video tutorials are just the beginning of a collection of tools that will be available to TotalProtect® family members!

Get a Free Quote!

See plans and pricing in seconds

* Required Information

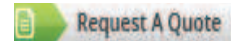
First Name* Last Name*

Phone*

Property Zip*

Email Address*

By submitting my telephone number and email address, I acknowledge that I may be contacted by TotalProtect in reference to my request. We will not sell or rent your information without your permission. Privacy Policy



Do You Have A Reservation Code?

Free Maintenance Guides

- [103-Point Maintenance Checklist](#): See the tasks performed with [TotalProtect Gold](#), or use it yourself as a reminder.
- [Easy and Effective Home Maintenance Guide](#): Download this 12-page book to get tips for prepping your home for every season.
- [TotalProtect Maintenance Calendar](#): Quickly see your to-dos each month. Put this handy "cheat sheet" on your fridge.

Helpful Articles

Our latest series of helpful articles will help you prepare your home for seasonal changes, make more eco-friendly choices and give you simple maintenance tips.

- [Eco-Friendly Kitchen Appliances Bring Big Benefits](#)
- [Renewable Energy: Harnessing Nature To Power Your Home](#)
- [Home Warranty: Do I Need One?](#)
- [Refrigerator Problems: Tips for Troubleshooting and Fixing](#)
- [Garbage Disposal Repair: A Few Simple Fixes](#)
- [Preparing Your Home for Spring: Are You Ready?](#)
- [Washer and Dryer Maintenance: Preventing Leaks, Damage and Fires in Your Home](#)
- [Home Disaster Preparation: 10 Essentials You Must Have](#)
- [Central Air and Heat Maintenance Keeps Your Home Comfortable Year-Round](#)
- [Childproofing Your Home: Home Safety Tips For Kids](#)
- [Home Safety: Five Low-Cost Items That Save Lives And Property](#)
- [Home Warranty: Flexible Plans Start at Just \\$19.95 per Month](#)

Weekly Blogs

Visit the [TotalProtect Blog](#) for weekly tips on:

- [Greening Your Home](#)
- [Home Safety](#)
- [Home Warranty Education](#)
- [Home Maintenance Tips](#)
- [Seasonal Preparations](#)

TotalProtect by Cross Country Home Services
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Customer Service 866.607.9674

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What's a Home Warranty?
Warranty Plans
Maintenance Programs
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Reviews
Appliance Discounts
Virtual Tour

MANAGE MY PLAN

Register a Warranty
Place a Claim
Appliance Buyline
Help/FAQ

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Resources

[Green Your Appliances](#)
[Protect Your Home - And Your Peace Of Mind](#)
[Programmable Thermostats Save You Heating and Cooling Costs](#)
[Tips to Keep Your Home in Top Shape](#)
[Understanding Furnace and Central Heat Maintenance](#)
[Maintaining Appliances Helps Reduce Fire Risks](#)
[Grill Safely This Summer](#)
[Everyday Habits That Save Home Energy](#)
[TotalProtect Providers Meet Tough Standards](#)
[Home Electrical Safety: Watch Those Wires, Plates and Fuses](#)
[Save Water Inside And Outside Your Home](#)
[Improve Indoor Air Quality in your home](#)
[Fall Maintenance: Four Tips To Prepare Your Home](#)
[House Cleaning Hazards: What You May Not Know Can Hurt You](#)
[Recycling And Composting at Home: Keeps Your Wallet and Our Planet Greener](#)
[Eco-Friendly Cleaning: Healthier For You And Your Home](#)
[How EASY Is It To File A TotalProtect® Home Warranty Claim?](#)
[Cold Weather Home Maintenance: Better Now Than Later](#)
[Eco-Friendly Kitchen Appliances Bring Big Benefits](#)
[Renewable Energy: Harnessing Nature To Power Your Home](#)
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House Cleaning Hazards: What You May Not Know Can Hurt You

The TotalProtect® Home Warranty team cautions that the way many of us clean our homes -- and the cleaning products we choose to use -- could be harming us more than the germs and bacteria we are eliminating!

As reported by the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA), some ingredients in common household cleaning products can irritate eyes, nose, throat, skin or respiratory systems. Certain cleaners in concentrated form may be considered hazardous, requiring careful handling, storage and disposal processes. Some chemicals and compounds, like volatile organic compound (VOC) content found in some paints and coatings, can lower the safety of the air we breathe.

Think You Know What's in That Bottle? Think Again.

A *USA Today* April 2012 [article](#) reported that roughly three out of every four Americans wrongly believe that the cleaning products they buy are required to disclose all ingredients the same way food labels do. (Based upon a Harris Interactive survey conducted in April 2011 for Whole Foods Market.) However, this law does not apply to household products. So you may not know for sure what is in that bottle of kitchen or bathroom cleaner.

Avoid Cleaning Hazards. Clean Safely with Tips by TotalProtect Home Warranty:

- **Choose greener cleaners over traditional products.** The EPA recommends you choose products that offer one or more of these attributes: they are chemical-free, non-toxic, bio-degradable, feature lower levels of VOC content, are made with natural ingredients or are sold with reusable, reduced or recyclable packaging, which also helps reduce packaging waste and transportation emissions.
- **Make your own greener cleaners.** A little vinegar or baking soda mixed into warm water is a cheap, eco-friendly and effective cleaning solution used for generations.
- **Always ensure adequate ventilation when using any product with harsh chemicals, flammable materials or higher VOC content.** TotalProtect Home Warranty experts recommend you wear a face mask that covers your mouth and nose. Keep nearby windows and doors open to ensure proper ventilation. Never breathe in the fumes at close range!

Efficient Air Conditioning and Heating Systems Can Reduce Air Hazards Too.

During extreme winter or summer climates, windows and doors are usually tightly sealed against outside elements. It is especially important that your heating or air conditioning unit is filtering your indoor air properly, to avoid toxic buildup re-circulating repeatedly throughout your home.

TotalProtect® Gold technicians visit your home four times per year. Over the course of these visits, they rigorously test the filtering, circulation and operational efficiency of your air conditioning and heating, as well as your plumbing, appliances and electrical systems. Using a specific 103-point checklist, our pre-screened professionals inspect critical parts, connections and performance. TotalProtect Gold experts also safeguard you against hundreds or thousands of dollars in repairs whenever your covered systems or major appliances break due to mechanical failure or wear and tear.

By following the recommendations in this article, along with maintaining properly-functioning systems, you will go a long way towards ensuring that the air inside your home is safer for your loved ones to breathe!

The information in this article is intended for the proper maintenance and care of systems and appliances in the home. Not all of the topics mentioned are intended to indicate coverage by our home warranty or maintenance plans. Please review your contract carefully to understand what your product coverage entails.

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Cleaning hazard safety tips shared in this article are published by the Environmental Protection Agency (epa.gov) and USA Today (usatoday.com)

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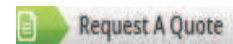
First Name* Last Name*

Phone*

Property Zip*

Email Address*

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