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# Safety first when clearing land

New homeowners often see their homes as blank canvasses. Looking at a home as a blank canvas is typically associated with its interior, but it also can apply to landscaping.

Homes are empty of furniture and decorative items like photos and art on the walls when new homeowners move in. That makes it easy to see the interior of a home as a blank canvas. But that's not always so easy in the garden or the yard, where brush, overgrown plants or trees and other eyesores might have been left behind by the previous owners.

A landscape must be cleared out before it can be seen as a blank canvas. Though clearing land may seem like a straightforward process, no one knows what lies beneath overgrowth or neglected areas of a yard or garden. Do-it-yourselfers can typically clear land on their own, but some safety strategies should be kept in mind to ensure the process goes smoothly.

- *Wear appropriate PPE.* Personal protective equipment should be worn when clearing land. The ap-

propriate PPE when clearing land includes attire and other gear that many homeowners likely already have on hand. A long-sleeve shirt, puncture proof pants and gloves and slip-resistant work boots should be worn when clearing land. Homeowners also may want to invest in a hard hat if they will be cutting branches off of trees or cutting trees down. A face shield also may be a good bet depending on the scale and potential dangers of the project.

- *Contact your utility company.* Overhead power and telephone lines are visible to the naked eye, and homeowners should be conscious of those lines as they cut any high branches. But underground lines are not visible, and that can make clearing land dangerous. Homeowners are urged to contact their utility companies before they begin to clear any land so they can determine if any underground lines are beneath areas they intend to clear out.

- *Get a lay of the land.* Carefully inspect the area to be cleared prior to starting the project. Inspections can reveal the density of any

vegetation that may need to be removed and reveal if there are any harmful plants like poison ivy growing. Many DIYers can remove small trees on their own, but a professional tree service may be necessary for large trees or those located close to the house. Homeowners won't want to cut down a tree, even a small one, if it can potentially fall onto the house. In addition, homeowners who are unfamiliar with chippers or stump grinders may be better off hiring a tree service to clear trees.

- *Don't go it alone.* No one should clear land alone. Even small projects are best tackled by at least two people. Should someone get injured during the project, the presence of another person ensures someone can immediately call for help. In addition, clearing land can be more difficult than it appears, and having at least two people to pull old shrubs or carry tree branches reduces the risk of injury.

Safety should be the utmost priority as homeowners prepare to clear land on their properties.

## CHECK OUT



3 Bedroom with Nice Back Yard

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5TH @ 5:00PM

**5703 ELAINE DR., CHARLESTON**  
3 Bedroom, 2 Bath. 1,152+/- sqft  
0.172+/- Acres  
2-Car Integral Garage  
Call Todd Short (681) 205-3044



2-Bedroom with Finished Basement

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5TH @ 6:00PM

**100 FLOYD STREET, GRANT TOWN**  
2 Bedrooms, 1.5 Bath  
Whole House Generac Generator  
2 Stall Attached Garage. Updated Electric  
Call Jordan Kiger (724) 998-5810



11,000 sqft Commercial Building on 2 Acres Minutes from I-79

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH @ 6:00PM

**100 KNOLLWOOD DRIVE, CHARLESTON**  
**ONLINE REAL ESTATE AUCTION**  
11,100+/- Sq Ft Commercial Metal Frame Building  
(9) Total 16x14FT Automatic Garage Doors  
(3) Total 16x14FT Drive Through, Front to Back Garage Doors  
Call Blake Shamblin (304) 476-7118



Used Car Lot in Saint Albans

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14TH @ NOON

**458 MACCORKLE AVE, SAINT ALBANS**  
1,628+/- sqft Commercial Building  
0.23 Acres (as assessed)  
2-Bay Garage, Spacious Parking Area  
Call Todd Short (681) 205-3044



6 Tracts of Land in Mingo County Selling to the Highest Bidders

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21ST @ 6:00PM

**ONLINE ABSOLUTE REAL ESTATE AUCTION**

Subject 1: Jennies Creek Rd, Kermit, WV  
Subject 2: Jennies Creek Rd, Kermit, WV  
Subject 3: Marrowbone Creek Rd, Kermit, WV  
Subject 4: Rockhouse Fork Rd., Delbarton, WV  
Subject 5: King Coal Highway, Delbarton, WV  
Subject 6: Right Fork Bens Creek Rd., Gilbert, WV

Call Taylor Ramsey (304) 552-5201

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