

Spring Maintenance Checklist

- 01. Inspect for Winter Damage.** Conduct a thorough visual inspection of the outside of your home. Look for any roof damage. Then look closely for damaged siding or trim, gutter and downspout damage, cracks in sidewalks or driveway, and check outdoor faucets and hose bibs.
- 02. Clean Up Your Yard.** Remove tree limbs, leaves, dead flowers or plants, and debris. Mowing and edging for the first time of the season can really spruce up things. Adding new mulch can also make a big difference.
- 03. Seed Bare Spots in Your Lawn.** Seed any bare spots in your lawn to allow the new grass to establish itself before the summer heat and rain. Choose the right seed for your lawn including the amount of shade. Use lawn blankets on slopes to hold the seed in place during germination.
- 04. Prune Trees and Shrubs.** Trim trees and shrubs. Remove dead branches and limbs. Remove any tree branches that overhang your roof. They can damage your home in a windstorm.
- 05. Clean Gutters and Downspouts.** Gutters and downspouts prevent rainwater from pouring onto your walls and causing ceiling and wall damage, which can affect your pipes and cause more leaks. Clear out the leaves and remove any obstructions in the downspouts. Repair any damage.
- 06. Clear Outdoor Drains.** Debris and leaves can clog your rainwater drainage system. Clear your storm drains and downspout extensions. Wash out the pipes with a garden hose and get them ready to handle the summer rain.
- 07. Test Your Irrigation System.** Turn on each zone in your irrigation system to make sure it's working. Identify any pipes and sprinkler heads that need to be repaired. It's also a good time to adjust sprinkler coverage and water flow.

- **08. Check All Outdoor Plumbing.** Outdoor faucets can freeze during the winter. Now is the time to test and repair them. Heat pumps and AC units can also be damaged during the winter. Any pool equipment should also be on your inspection list.
- **09. Repair Screen Doors and Windows.** Inspect the screens and replace those that are badly damaged. For small holes, you can find repair kits at a hardware store.
- **10. Inspect for Pest Damage.** Look for any pest damage. Damage to the roof and eaves can come from birds, squirrels, and flying insects. Ants, termites, and even burrowing animals can cause damage at ground level. Help prevent pest entry by sealing up any cracks and holes you find.
- **11. Power Wash the Deck and Siding.** Dirt, mud, and grime collect on your deck and siding over the winter months. Use a pressure washer set to the right flow for the specific wood or siding. It will give you a nice, clean start to the summer.
- **12. Seal the Fence and Deck.** It's a good time to stain and seal the wood after you've cleaned the deck and fence as well as repaired any damage. Do this at least every other year to maintain the wood and protect it from heat, humidity, and rainstorms.
- **13. Check the Foundation's Landscaping.** Moving water away from your foundation is critical to reducing basement or crawl space leaks. Start with any window wells, clearing them of debris and making sure they're sealed against rain. Trim shrubs away from the foundation. Look for root growth near the foundation. Tree and shrub roots can also cause damage to sewer and water lines entering the foundation.
- **14. Build a List of Summer Projects.** Build your list of home improvements and include the spring maintenance tasks that you've found. Then prioritize them for scheduling throughout the summer.

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