

# Spring Maintenance CHECKLIST

Spring is a time of renewal. This is true not only for nature, but also for your home's maintenance. With a little work and preparation, your home will be clean, functional, and ready to enjoy in the warm months ahead.

# INTERIOR

Spring is a good time to get some areas of your home's interior clean and updated. It's also a great time to plan any remodeling projects and start on seasonal décor updates to give each room a style boost. Here's some tips to get you started on interior maintenance and deep cleaning chores to get your home refreshed and ready for spring.

- Have your heating system inspected by a professional now instead of waiting until the fall rush
- Clean the dust coils on the refrigerator and thoroughly wipe down the inside and dispose of spoiled food.
- Clean or replace the furnace filter
- Dust and/or vacuum under large pieces of furniture such as sofas, cabinets, hutches, dressers, chests, beds, and bookcases.
- Clean your windows from the inside including tracks and sashes
- Dust and clean all lighting fixtures including shades and replace any light bulbs that are burnt out.
- Open window if the weather permits to air out the house and let in some needed and welcome fresh air.
- Wash down walls and woodwork.
- Launder curtains and wash blinds or wipe down window shades. Replace any broken or worn blinds or shades.
- Clean out your fireplace hearth with a shop vacuum, and call a professional chimney cleaning service if creosote residue needs to be removed.
- Shampoo or steam clean carpets, area rugs, and upholstery
- Wash all bedding including sheets, blankets, quilts or comforters, pillow shams, dust ruffles, and mattress pads. Store away any heavier bed coverings or blankets not needed in the warmer weather.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace batteries
- Change out seasonal home accents and refresh décor. This may include adding new pillow covers on throw pillows, table linens, bath towels, or decorative accent pieces.
- Check fire extinguishers and replace any that are damaged or more than six years old.
- Put fresh spring touches throughout the house by changing out or adding new vases of flowers, house plants, decorative accents, wall art, and pops of pastel colors.
- Clean out and organize closets and storage cabinets. Establish piles of items to give away, sell, or take to the dump. Add some storage bins and organizers to keep clutter under control.
- Clean underneath and behind large appliances including the stove, refrigerator, washer, and dryer.

# EXTERIOR

Once the ground has thawed, the snow has melted, and the weather is mild, it's time to get out tackle general home and yard maintenance projects. Winter can be harsh on your home's exterior. With the advent of spring, you'll need to inspect your home's exterior for any needed repairs or cleaning along with prepping your yard for the warm season ahead.

- Inspect your roof for any wind or ice damage such as loose, cracked, or missing shingles or leaks.
- Inspect roof flashing around vents, chimneys, and valleys for damage.
- Check the exterior for damage including chipping paint, rotting wood, cracked mortar, or loose siding.
- Power wash all windows, house siding, and fences.
- Clean and repair window and door screens.
- Repair or replace caulking and weather stripping around windows, doors, exterior outlets, and mechanicals such as gas and/or electrical meters.
- Check for any tree limbs or dead drop hanging on or impeding electrical lines and call the electric company for removal.
- Clean out debris from gutters and downspouts.
- Check and replace any light bulbs from your outdoor lighting fixtures including wall sconces, porch lights, post lamps, landscape lighting, and flood or spot lights.
- Change out your air conditioner filter on central air systems or install your window units.
- Inspect chimney for damage and schedule cleaning if needed.
- Remove any winter insulation from your outdoor spigots and turn them back on along with any in-ground sprinkler heads.
- Clean, stain, or repaint the deck.
- Sweep or power wash patios, walkways, and the driveway.
- Fill any cracks in your driveway and re-tar the surface as needed. Replace any cracked or damaged pavers or landscaping masonry.
- Clean lint from the outside dryer vent.
- Clean out and organize garage and tool shed.
- Prep snow blower for storage by draining tank and disconnecting spark plug.
- Inspect lawn mower and replace/sharpen blade, replace any filters, oil, etc.
- Rake the lawn and garden beds to remove dead debris from the winter.
- Fertilize the lawn, prep flower and garden beds, and plant new bulbs or seeds
- Clean and check your gas grill. Replace any worn parts, and get the propane tank refilled.