

Spring Maintenance Checklist

- **01. Inspect for Winter Damage.** Start at the top of your home looking for any roof damage. Go on to look closely for any damaged siding or trim, gutter and downspout damage, cracks in sidewalks or driveway, and even chimney tilt.
- **02. Inspect Your Home's Foundation.** Examine your home's foundation for any cracks, bulges, or gaps between the soil and the foundation walls. Winter weather not only causes cracking, but ice can expand existing cracks.
- **03. Check the Landscaping Around Your Foundation.** Check that shrubs and trees along with any root growth are cut back well away from the foundation.
- **04. Clean Up Your Yard.** Remove broken tree limbs, leaves, and dead flowers or plants. Mowing and edging for that first time can really spruce up things. Add new mulch, being careful to keep it away from foundation walls.
- **05. Seed Bare Spots in Your Lawn.** Seed those bare spots to allow the new grass to establish itself before the summer heat and rain.
- **06. Prune Trees and Shrubs.** Trim trees and shrubs along with removing any dead branches and limbs. Remove any tree branches that overhang your roof, threatening to damage your home in a windstorm.
- **07. Gutter and Downspout Cleaning and Repair.** Spring and fall are the best times to clear out the leaves and remove any obstructions in the downspouts. Repair any winter damage. Install gutter guards to prevent leaves from collecting in the gutters.
- **08. Clear Outdoor Drains.** Clear your storm drains and downspout extensions. Wash out the pipes with a garden hose and get them ready to handle the summer rain.

- **09. Test Your Irrigation System.** Turn on each zone in your irrigation system and check to make sure it's working. Identify any pipes and sprinkler heads that need to be repaired. Adjust sprinkler coverage and waterflow.
- **10. Check All Outdoor Plumbing.** Test and repair outdoor faucets. Heat pumps and AC units can also be damaged during the winter. Any pool equipment should also be on your inspection list.
- **11. 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.
- **12. Inspect for Pest Damage.** Look both high and low for any pest damage. Roof level damage can come from birds, squirrels, and flying insects. At ground level look for ants, termites, and even burrowing animals. Seal up any cracks and holes you find to help prevent pest entry.
- **13. Power Wash Deck and Siding.** Dirt, mud, and grime collected on your deck and siding over the winter months. Use a pressure washer set to the right flow for the particular wood or siding to clean all this off.
- **14. Seal Your Fence and Deck.** After you've cleaned the deck and repaired any damage you find, it's a good time to stain and seal the wood. Do this at least every other year to maintain the wood and protect it from heat, humidity, and rainstorms.
- **15. Schedule HVAC System Service.** Add a regular scheduled service in early spring for the air conditioning system and fall for the heating system.
- **16. Build a List of Summer Projects.** Build a list of home improvement ideas along with the list of spring maintenance tasks that you've found. Then prioritize them for scheduling throughout the summer.

Need help with foundation repair?

*Get a free inspection from your local experts at **Ohio Basement Systems**.*