

Spring Home Maintenance Guide

By Catherine Parent, Caregiver Support Coordinator, Eastern HRM Region

Spring is here and Summer is fast approaching. It is a beautiful time of refresh, regrowth, and renewal. Weather temperatures are improving and we will be transitioning between our indoor and outdoor environments' more now that winter has ended.

The following home maintenance checklist may provide guidance while you prepare for the upcoming seasons. The checklist includes tasks that may be completed individually and tasks which may require a professional service provider to complete. Whether you reside in an apartment, condominium, or in a free-standing dwelling, this list is meant to provide you with the safest start to a bright and pleasant new season.

The Spring Home Maintenance Checklist

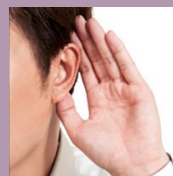
- **Thermostat Adjustment** – Warmer spring and summer temperatures mean cooler inside temperatures desired. Consider turning down your thermostats to help manage energy costs.
- **Smoke Alarms and Fire Extinguishers** – Check CO2 alarms and change the batteries in all smoke detectors. Have fire extinguishers serviced so that they are in maximum working order.
- **Doorways and Windows** – Are rail systems clean and clear of debris? Do they all open freely with ease?
- **Air Conditioner and Furnace Systems** – Are dryer vents clean and clear? Are these systems due to have servicing checks completed?
- **Attic Space** – Complete a check for any signs of leakage or signs of any uninvited creatures who have made their way inside.
- **Spring Cleaning** – It's a great opportunity to freshen and air out your environment. This can reduce allergens in the home.
- **Rain Gutter System** – Check and remove debris in your rain gutters. Be sure that fluids can channel through freely and drain away from the home.
- **Shingle Check** – Are repairs required to the shingles attached to your home?

- **Septic Tank/Sewer Systems** – It may be the time of the year to look at having your system inspected and emptied after the winter thaw.
- **Foundations and Basements** – Check for any cracks in the walls where meltwater can enter. Monitor and have the cracks sealed where necessary. While you are checking, monitor for any sign of mold that may be present and might need to be addressed.
- **Driveways and Walkways** – take a look at the levels and smoothness of these surfaces. Is refacing required to keep you safe in your outside space?
- **Deck and Patio** – Give your deck and patio a power wash and look for signs of possible repairs required. While checking, test out the railing systems on your decks and patios for stability and security.
- **Exterior Faucets** – Check for signs of leakage prior to restoring water to your outside faucets.
- **Exterior Lights** – Replace light bulbs where necessary. Remember to include the house, pathway, and any smaller garden lights.
- **Outdoor Furniture and BBQ** – Thoroughly inspect and clean your outside furniture and barbecue. Monitor for repairs that may need to be completed prior to use. This may be a great time to swap out the propane tank, if needed.
- **Lawn Mowers and Electrical Tools** – Visually inspect, do an oil change, check the spark plugs, and sharpen any blades that may need sharpening.

Adapted in part from this article: <http://www.theweathernetwork.com/ca/amp/news/article/your-spring-maintenance-checklist>



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