

Checklist for Spring Home Projects

1. Inspect Your Roof and Gutters

April showers bring May flowers, but they can also bring water leakage and damage to your home! If you don't notice any leakage, inspect your roof yourself either with binoculars or climb up on a ladder. Look for debris, damaged shingles, or any sign of needed repair. If you find issues, have questions, or if you're already experiencing water damage, call a professional. Not sure how to tell if you have a leak? While you're checking out your roof, inspect your gutters also. Are any sagging, detached, or clogged with debris? Rain water will end up places you don't want it to if your gutters aren't draining the water properly.

2. Check Your Outside Faucets and Run Your Sprinklers

The time for watering gardens and running in the sprinkler is closer than you think, so check your outside faucets for leaks or damage. If you have a sprinkler system, turn that on to check for broken sprinkler heads.

You want to make sure your sprinkler system is working efficiently to keep your yard and garden beds watered appropriately. If your sprinkler head is broken and not spraying the location you want, well that's just money draining down your yard. And being proactive in getting these fixed now can help you enjoy the beautiful summer days outside, not shopping around in a hardware store!

3. Inspect Your Air Conditioning Unit and Laundry Vent

If you've had your AC unit covered all winter, it's time to take the cover off and change the filters (who knows when you'll be cranking up the AC to cool off!). Also consider having an HVAC expert come out and give your AC unit a tune up. Regular maintenance can help extend the life of your current unit. Thinking of an upgrade? Ask about the cost savings and efficiency of the newer models.

By the way, when was the last time you cleaned your dryer vent? Can't remember? It may be time to do so now. To clean, simply remove the vent hose from the back of the dryer as well as the vent cover on the outside of your home and vacuum thoroughly. This spring project can help prevent fires as well as improve your dryer's performance. Not sure where to start this project?

4. Clean Up Your Yard and Deck

Whether you live to be in the garden or dread your bi-weekly lawn mowing chore, spring is the time to get out in your yard and make it look amazing! Rake the leaves, remove any debris (garbage, sticks) deposited from the snow, trim overgrowth or dead branches, apply grass seed to any bare patches, and plant new additions.

While outside, check your deck and patio. Do you have wood boards that need replacing? What about cracks in bricks or stone caused by the cold weather? Head to the hardware store for supplies or simply call a contractor to make sure your outside living space is perfect for summertime, backyard hosting!

5. Check and Clean the Windows

Check the exterior of your windows and doors for any cracks or air leaks. Repair as necessary by either replacing the trim or using caulk to seal leaks. Also, inspect your screens for any tears or holes. Use a screen repair kit to seal those up to avoid letting bugs into your home during warm spring days. And while you're inspecting, give the windows a good cleaning inside and out to allow for better light flow and make your home's exterior shine!

6. Seal Cracks in Driveway, Walkways, and Pool Deck

Winter weather causes damage to concrete and asphalt. Check your walkways and other areas for cracks or damage. Depending on the damage, either seal yourself using a concrete filler or caulk or call a professional.

Thinking of skipping this home project? While some concrete cracks are shallow and don't need repair (they will most likely crack again due to winter weather), for larger cracks you will want to get those repaired. They're an eyesore as well as a potential danger and liability.

7. Safety Check Your Home

Make this an annual or semi-annual home project. Check the batteries on your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms. Check the status of your fire extinguisher. Have a home security system? Update any password or contact information with the company to stay current.

What about air quality in your home? Do you have a radon system in your home? Check to make sure it's intact and working properly. Don't have a radon system? Think of testing your basement's air for radon by calling a professional or buying a testing kit online.

8. Get Your Spring On!

The best spring home project of all is getting out your spring recreation items and home decor. Pull out and wash up your patio and lawn furniture (tired of last year's colors? Buy new!). Get your family's bikes out from the basement or garage storage, pump up the tires, and get ready to ride. Open your windows and let some fresh air blow in! Swap out your winter wardrobe for your spring and summer outfits — and don't forget to trade your snow boots for cute sandals!