

Spring Maintenance Checklist

- **01. Checking for Winter Damage.** Look for any winter damage. Watch for shingles that are loose or missing, siding that's damaged, gutter and downspout damage, cracks or shifting in the sidewalks or driveway, and chimney tilt.
- **02. Cleaning Your Yard.** Clean up the leaves, fallen tree limbs, dead plants, and general debris. Mowing and edging can really spruce up things. Adding new mulch can also make a difference.
- **03. Trimming Trees and Shrubs.** Cut back any limbs hanging over your roof and threatening to come down in a storm. Trim back branches on the trees around your home to improve airflow and allow sunlight, reducing the risk of mold and mildew growth.
- **04. Cleaning Gutters and Downspouts.** Clean out leaves and remove any blockages from your home's gutters and downspouts twice a year. They must be clear during rainstorms to make sure water doesn't pool around your foundation, find cracks, or enter your basement or crawl space.
- **05. Clearing Outdoor Drainage.** Examine your buried drains, storm drains, downspout extensions, and other rainwater management systems closely. Clear out any clogs with a plumbing snake, then wash out pipes with a garden hose.
- **06. Inspecting Your Home's Foundation.** Snow and ice can create basement or crawl space cracks that let in summer rain. Foundation shifting can also occur over the winter. Look for changes in your basement or crawl space, both inside and out.
- **07. Maintaining the Foundation's Landscaping.** Inspect window wells, clearing them of any debris and making sure they're sealed against rain. Trim shrubs away from the foundation. Look for root growth near the foundation.
- **08. Inspecting the Outdoor Plumbing.** Check outdoor faucets, AC unit or heat pump, pool equipment, and all the rest of the items that have spent the winter outdoors in freezing temperatures.

- **09. Testing the Irrigation System.** Turn on every zone and check every sprinkler head. Identify anything that's broken or needs adjustment. Make needed adjustments for any coverage problems you experienced last summer.
- **10. Reseeding Lawn Spots.** Check for bare or thin spots on your lawn. Reseed those with a matching type of grass. Use a lawn seed blanket on slopes to keep the seed in place while it germinates.
- **11. Repairing Screen Doors and Windows.** Replace screens that are badly damaged. Repair kits are available at hardware stores for small holes.
- **12. Inspecting for Pest Evidence.** Birds, squirrels, and flying insects including bees and wasps can damage your roof and eaves. Termites, ants, and animals do their damage at ground level. Seal any cracks or holes that you find to prevent their entry.
- **13. Power Washing the Deck and Siding.** Get the winter grime, mud, and dirt off your deck and siding with a pressure washer. Use the correct pressure setting that matches the type of wood and siding.
- **14. Resealing Outdoor Woodwork.** Stain and reseal any outdoor woodwork. This includes decks, fences, and trellises. Make any needed repairs first and then bring them all back to life with a sealant.
- **15. Scheduling HVAC Service.** Add a regularly scheduled service in early spring for the air conditioning system and in fall for the heating system. Start regular maintenance to catch problems early before they reach the catastrophic stage.
- **16. Planning Summer Projects.** During our long winter, you've probably thought about a few improvements to make to your home. This is a good time to write down that full list, add the spring maintenance tasks you've identified from the list above, then prioritize them.

Need help with foundation repair?

*Get a free inspection from your local experts at **Innovative Basement Authority**.*