



Spring Is Here; Is Your Home Ready?

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There is nothing more important for your [home insurance](#) risk than to properly maintain your home. Spending time on home maintenance will help reduce damage and liability, resulting in continued competitive [home insurance](#) pricing. Here are a few things you should be doing now as spring arrives to get your [house](#) in tiptop shape:



- Power wash moss from walkways to prevent slips and falls.
 - Replace batteries in all smoke detectors.
 - Check caulking around all windows for wear and replace if needed.
 - Check for loose or leaky gutters. Improper drainage can lead to water in the basement.
 - Clean your barbeque, and inspect the gas line if you use propane or natural gas.
 - Check for damage to your roof, replace loose or missing shakes, and clean gutters and downspouts to keep debris from accumulating.
 - Clean or replace your furnace filter.
 - Have your chimney cleaned.
 - Inspect landscaping (especially trees) for damage. If you see any cracked, leaning or otherwise dangerous conditions with any of your trees, have a licensed, insured tree company inspect and trim or remove them as needed.
- Pull out the refrigerator and vacuum the coil vents.
 - Clean the dryer filter and check for any blockage in the hose.
 - Check deck railing for any dry rot, and repair as needed.
 - Hairline cracks in foundation walls might be the result of concrete curing or minor settling and aren't automatically a cause for alarm. Mark them with tape and check them again in a few months.
 - Outdoor lighting timers should be programmed so that they aren't on during daylight hours to conserve electricity.
 - If you don't have a first-aid kit, make or purchase one. For the ones you have, make sure you replenish any missing supplies and refresh what is needed. Keep one in your car as well.
 - Expiration date check. Dispose of any items with outdated expiration dates such as garden products, chemicals, medications and beauty products.
 - Check/install window screens. If you remove your screens for winter, now is the time to clean, check for damage, and re-install.

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