

Home Care Year-Round

Upkeep Through the Year Can Protect Comfort and Curb Appeal

A home faces changing demands in every season. Heat, cold, rain, wind and humidity all affect comfort, energy use and the condition of roofs, walls, windows and outdoor spaces.

A steady routine can help homeowners stay ahead of small problems before they grow. Seasonal care also supports a home's value, helps systems run as intended and makes day-to-day living more comfortable for the people inside.

SPRING CHECKLIST

Spring is a good time to look for issues left behind by winter weather. Homeowners can inspect the roof from the ground for missing shingles, check gutters for debris and make sure downspouts carry water away from the foundation.

It is also a smart season to examine exterior caulking around windows and doors. Cracks and gaps can let in moisture and air, which may affect both comfort and efficiency.

Inside the home, air conditioning systems often need attention before summer arrives. Replacing an HVAC filter, clearing leaves from the



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outdoor unit and scheduling routine service can help the system operate more smoothly during hot weather.

SUMMER FOCUS

Summer often brings heavier use of cooling equipment, irrigation systems and outdoor living areas. Ceiling fans should turn counterclockwise in warm months to help push air downward, according to the U.S. Department of

Energy.

This is also a practical time to look for signs of water waste outdoors. Sprinkler heads can drift out of alignment and hoses can develop leaks, sending water onto sidewalks instead of lawns and garden beds.

Decks, patios and fences may benefit from cleaning and a close inspection. Catching loose boards, cracked steps or worn fasten-

ers early can improve safety and help avoid larger repairs later.

FALL PRIORITIES

As temperatures cool, heating systems move back into focus. Replacing filters, testing the thermostat and making sure vents are not blocked by furniture can support better airflow throughout the house.

Fall is also one of the most

important times to clear gutters and roof valleys. When leaves pile up, water can back up and increase the risk of moisture damage near the roofline.

Weather-stripping deserves a close look before winter. The U.S. Department of Energy says air leaks around doors and windows can waste energy, so sealing worn spots can make rooms feel less drafty.

WINTER WATCH

Winter maintenance often centers on safety and prevention. Homeowners should know where the main water shut-off valve is located in case a pipe problem develops during a freeze.

It also helps to keep exterior paths clear and watch for ice buildup near entryways. In colder regions, checking exposed pipes in basements, garages and crawl spaces can reduce the chance of freezing.

A home does not need major work every month to stay in good shape. Consistent seasonal attention, from filters to gutters to simple inspections, can help protect one of a family's biggest investments while keeping the property welcoming all year.



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REAL ESTATE 101



Stay Ahead

Do small jobs before the weather turns. Cleaning gutters, changing filters and sealing gaps on time is usually easier and less costly than dealing with water damage or overworked equipment later.

HOMEWISE GLOSSARY

Weather-Stripping: Weather-stripping is material placed around doors and windows to reduce air leaks. It helps limit drafts, improve indoor comfort and support heating and cooling efficiency throughout the year.

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