

# Spring Cleaning

(and home & property inspection)

## Checklist



- Chimney Maintenance** – Set up an appointment to get your chimney cleaned out when heating season is over. Don't wait for the next winter.
- Trim and remove dead tree limbs** – Dead trees can attract pests and are more likely to fall, help prevent any damage by trimming.
- Examine your windows and doors** – Look at the seams and the caulking. Fix as necessary. Check all locks to make sure they work properly and that you have the right keys for them. Don't forget to look at your garage door.
- Sweep out Garage** – Clear out any debris that has accumulated there over the fall and winter. Watch out for the mouse nests.
- De-clutter** – Get rid of anything you don't need any more and organize what's left. If you haven't used it in a few years, donate it to charity (Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, etc).
- Check the water heater and water holding tank** – Make sure there is no corrosion or cracks and repair as needed.
- Get your lawn mower ready for summer** – Have the oil changed and the blade sharpened if necessary. Don't forget to store gas cans and oil in a well-ventilated area, away from the house.
- Change the air filters in your HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning)** – Changing the filter can extend the life of your HVAC, maintain healthy air quality, help keep energy costs down.
- Change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors** – Batteries should be replaced approximately every six months to make sure the detectors are working properly. The best time to remember this is when you adjust your clocks for Day Light Savings, change those batteries.
- Clean your dryer lint hose** – At a minimum, pull the hose off the back of the dryer and use a vacuum cleaner to get the lint that snuck past the lint trap. This is one of the leading causes of house fires and is easily preventable.
- Clean gutters and down spouts** – Make sure you don't get a large buildup of debris so that water can flow through gutters and down spouts easily. Remember, gutters and spouts direct water away from the roof and house to prevent damage. We don't want a birdbath on the roof.
- Check the Roof and the walls** – Snow and ice can be especially harsh on roofs and sidings. Besides the obvious, missing shingles, saggy roof, holes in the siding, look for holes critters might have created to escape the cold. If in doubt, get your roof inspected.
- Have your roof inspected** – If in doubt from the previous item, this is worth it.
- Find and fix any tripping hazards** – Look for the easy stuff, dead branches, new holes in the yard, and the not so obvious stuff, broken bricks or flagstones, cracked sidewalks and driveways that settled a bit during the winter. Don't forget the deck. Check for nails or screws that raised up and boards that might have warped.
- Review your Insurance Policies** – We may be an insurance company, but this is truly important. It's recommended that you review your insurance policies once a year and spring cleaning is the perfect time to do so. Look for any changes in your coverage. This is not limited to you making any major purchases or alterations to your home. A lot can change in a year. Verify that you are properly covered for peace of mind