



SEASONAL CHECKLIST

SPRING

INSPECTING AND MAINTAINING YOUR HOME

Spring is the ideal time to give your house the once-over and get all of your outdoor equipment back into service. Ready? Set? Spring-clean!

☀️-OUTSIDE	✓
If you have a sloped roof, check the condition of its covering (e.g., asphalt shingles , metal covering) and the caulking around any projecting features (e.g., chimney, plumbing vents, flashing).	
If your roof is flat, make sure the drain is unblocked and its protective strainer basket properly installed..	
If you have a built-up roof (asphalt and gravel covering), make sure the gravel completely covers the asphalt coat.	
If on the other hand your roof covering is an elastomeric membrane design, check to see if any of the protective granules have come loose. If they have, call a specialized roofer.	
Also make sure that chimneys, skylights, electrical service masts, flashing, etc., have not been damaged during the winter.	
Heating season is now over, so have the chimney swept and the indoor heating appliance thoroughly cleaned.	
Have a look at the roof gutters. Snow and ice may have damaged them or weakened their brackets. Make sure all downspouts are correctly installed and that they direct rainwater a sufficient distance away from the foundation to prevent infiltrations.	
Inspect the exterior cladding (aluminum, vinyl, wood): any sheathing materials that are poorly anchored or have come loose must be repaired without delay. If they are cracked, flaking, discoloured or showing signs of mould, have them inspected.	
If the house has brick or stone cladding, look for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • crumbling or spalling; • joints that are cracked or missing mortar; • bowing (outward swelling of the wall). 	
In case of anomalies, contact a masonry contractor and plan to have repairs done before the next cold season.	
Test all stairs, balconies, decks, and handrails for solidity, and proceed with any necessary repairs.	
Test all exterior electrical outlets. Each should be equipped with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).	
While washing all your windows, take the time to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • replace all screens, first inspecting them for holes and making any necessary repairs; • inspect the caulking around the windows. 	



Clean out the window wells and, if necessary, their drain pipes to make sure they work effectively.	
Thoroughly inspect the foundation. If you find cracks, efflorescence (whitish deposits), or localized infiltration/humidity, have the foundation more closely assessed by a specialist.	
Prep your air conditioner, if you have one. Clean the coil and filters (or replace the latter). You should have the unit serviced every two or three years.	
If you have a heat pump and it sits on the ground, check that it is level; freeze-thaw cycles may have destabilized it. Note that if your heat pump is more than five years old, you should have it checked yearly by a specialist.	
Inspect your garden shed and fences and plan any necessary maintenance/repairs.	
As soon as the ground thaws, in early April, remove any protective coverings from trees and shrubs. Do this on a cloudy day so that they aren't suddenly exposed to too much sunlight. For less hardy plants, wait until the temperature is at least minus 2 or 3 Celsius.	
If you have trees that lose a lot of sap, such as maple, birch, elm, walnut or linden, avoid trimming them too early in the spring: wait until mid-May.	
With fruit trees, get as much information as you can before you break out the pruning shears.	
If any de-icing salts, sand or gravel have accumulated next to the lawn, remove them and thoroughly flush areas where salt or chloride compounds have built up.	
Make sure your lawnmower is ready for the season.	
Around the end of April, dethatch (rake) the lawn.	
In May, reseed bare patches to reduce the risk of weeds spreading to them.	
The first time you mow, cut the grass to a height of 5 cm; on subsequent mowings, cut it to 7.5 cm.	
Spread natural fertilizer on the soil.	
Once the risk of frost has passed, turn the outside taps back on and reconnect garden hoses.	
Take your garden furniture and accessories out of storage and clean them. Reinstall children's play equipment (e.g., swings, cabin).	
Thoroughly inspect every component of your gas grill. Make sure there is enough propane in the tank so you'll be sure to enjoy a barbecue on those first nice days of spring.	
Restart the swimming pool water treatment system as soon as the sun comes out for good and all traces of winter have disappeared.	



INSIDE



If your home is heated by a central combustion appliance, have it maintained and cleaned as soon as the heating season ends. If you have a forced-air heating system, buy replacement filters now so you'll be ready in the fall.

If you get your drinking water from a well, the end of the snowmelt is a good time to have the water quality analyzed by a laboratory.

If you have a sump pump, make sure it is working properly.

If you have a portable or central humidifier, clean it thoroughly.

Clean out the catch basin in the garage.

Clean out the garage and/or other places where maintenance products are stored. If you have any toxic products that you don't need any more (e.g., paint, oils, pesticides), take them to your local eco-centre.

Pour water into the basement floor drains to prevent sewer backup odours.

If the house has a crawlspace, as soon as the warm weather returns, open up the vents to ensure the space is properly aerated.

Make sure the grates on the weeping tiles are in good condition to prevent insects or small animals from getting in.

Clear out any lint that has accumulated in the dryer exhaust duct and the outdoor vent.

If you have an air exchanger, clean it thoroughly and replace the filter if necessary.

Adjust and lubricate door hinges and window mechanisms—don't forget the garage door!

Store seasonal rugs, door mats, etc., until the fall.

When you make the switch to daylight time, take the opportunity to test your smoke detectors and CO detector (if you have one); if necessary, replace the batteries.

If you have ceiling fans, change their direction of rotation so that the blades push air downward.