

16 Steps for Springtime Home Maintenance in North Carolina

- **01. Inspect for Winter Damage.** Take a good long look all around your home for any damage. Things to watch for include loose or missing shingles, damaged siding, gutter or downspout damage, as well as cracks in the sidewalks or driveway.
- **02. Take Care of Yard Work.** Winter storms can leave fallen tree limbs along with those few leaves we missed in the fall that have somehow multiplied over the winter. Clean that all up now to get your lawn in tip-top shape and ready for summer.
- **03. Seed Lawn Bare Spots.** Cleaning up your lawn will often reveal bare or thin spots. This is a great time to plant those spots with seed that matches your current grass.
- **04. Trim Trees and Shrubs.** Remove tree limbs that threaten to fall on your roof. Trimming branches and shrubs to allow for improved airflow and sunshine can also help to reduce the risk of mold and mildew growth.
- **05. Clean Out Gutters and Downspouts.** Cleaning out gutters and downspouts is absolutely essential to prevent rainwater from pouring onto your foundation. Clear out the leaves and remove any obstructions in the downspouts.
- **06. Clear Outdoor Drainage.** Make sure your rainwater drainage system is clear. That includes buried drains, storm drains, and downspout extensions. Clear any blockages and wash out the pipes with a garden hose.
- **07. Check Outdoor Plumbing.** Pool equipment, outdoor faucets, as well as heat pumps or AC units can be damaged from winter freezing. Include them in your overall tour of the outside of your home.
- **08. Check Screen Doors and Windows.** Slight tears or holes in window and door screens can exacerbate the challenge of keeping critters outside instead of inside. You can find repair kits at most hardware stores.

- **09. Review Your Home's Foundation.** Look for any cracks that may have developed or expanded during the winter freezes. Look as well for any gaps between the soil and the foundation where water can accumulate.
- **10. Test Irrigation Systems.** Check that all the sprinkler zones are working. You should also be able to spot any problems with broken sprinkler heads. It's also a good time to make any needed adjustments to fix areas that need more or less water.
- **11. Inspect the Foundation Landscape.** Inspect the basement window wells to clear them of any debris, plant growth, and reseal them where necessary. Check that their drains are open as well. Trim shrubs away from the foundation and watch for root growth.
- **12. Watch for Pest Damage.** Insects and burrowing animals can do a great deal of damage to your home. Bats, birds, squirrels, and flying insects can damage your roof. Ants, termites, and burrowing animals cause damage at ground level.
- **13. Wash Decks and Siding.** Pressure wash decks and siding to remove winter mud, dirt, and grime. To avoid damage, make sure you use the correct pressure setting for the type of wood on your deck as well as for the siding.
- **14. Seal Fences and Decks.** Any outdoor wood structures require periodic staining, sealing, or painting. Spring is a good time to get this taken care of before summer heat, humidity, and storms. Make sure to take care of any repairs before staining and sealing.
- **15. Schedule HVAC System Service.** Don't risk summer arriving without your air conditioning system working. Spring is the perfect time for an HVAC maintenance routine that can catch and fix small problems before they become costly.
- **16. Prioritize Summer Projects.** Over the winter you've probably collected a number of home improvement ideas along with a few repair projects. This is a good time to write all those down and then prioritize them.

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