

Spring tip #1

CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS

Why?

Gutters are an integral piece of your home's well-being. They serve to control the flow of rainwater to protect your roof, walls, foundation and landscape. A gutter clogged with leaves, sticks and other debris can cause a leaky roof or water damage to the interior or exterior of your home

How?

Grab a ladder, and check your gutters for debris. Remove as much as you can with your hands. Remove any leftover gunk with a garden hose. Take off any nozzle and have a helper turn on the water when you're ready. Shove the hose into the downspout to power out of gooseneck bends. Make sure your downspouts channel water at least five feet from foundation walls.



Spring tip #2

REPLACE/CLEAN YOUR FILTERS

Why?

Neglecting filters in your home and appliances can increase your power bill and even damage the appliance. We all know it's much cheaper to clean and replace a filter than it is to replace an appliance.

Which?

Furnace (should be replaced every 30-90 days)

Refrigerator Water filter (replace every 6 months)

Range Hood filter (replace every 3-6 months)

Spring tip #3

CLEAN FAUCETS & SHOWERHEADS

Why?

Mineral deposits and organic matter build up over time and can clog the holes preventing an even flow of water. If you are noticing a sudden decrease in water pressure or irregular spray patterns, then it is likely your shower head could use a good soak.

How?

Slip a rubber band around your shower head and then fill a plastic bag with enough white vinegar to fully submerge it. Secure the bag with the rubber band and then leave it for a few hours to soak. Once you remove the plastic bag, run hot water through the shower head to dislodge the debris.



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Spring tip #4

TEST SMOKE ALARMS

Why?

Electronic devices are not infallible. Batteries die, and other parts of the smoke detector can wear out over time. Testing them regularly and replacing batteries (or the entire device) is one way to help ensure your family stays safe should there be a fire in your home.

How?

According to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), smoke detectors should be tested at least once a month and batteries should be replaced at least once or twice a year. A good way to remember to do this is to change your batteries when you change your clocks for daylight saving time – when you spring forward or fall back. Make sure to review your smoke detector's user manual.



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