

First-year homeowner checklist

Every month

- ☐ Test smoke and CO alarms U.S. Fire Administration
- ☐ Check fire extinguishers National Fire Protection Association
- ☐ Test GFCI outlets U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
- ☐ Test the sump pump Liberty Pumps if you have one
- ☐ Top up water softener salt Culligan if you have one
- ☐ Clean the dishwasher filter Whirlpool
- ☐ Clean range hood filter Broan-NuTone

Every 3 months

- ☐ Change HVAC filter ENERGY STAR (U.S. EPA)

Every 6 months

- ☐ Switch ceiling fan direction ENERGY STAR (U.S. EPA)
- ☐ Check for leaks under sinks University of Georgia Cooperative Extension
- ☐ Check tub and shower caulk University of Georgia Cooperative Extension
- ☐ Replace whole-house water filter 3M Aqua-Pure / Solventum if you have one
- ☐ Replace fridge water filter Whirlpool if you have one
- ☐ Clean the gutters West Virginia University Extension
- ☐ Inspect the roof National Roofing Contractors Association

Longer than a year

These repeat every two years or more, so what you need is the date each was last done. The smoke alarms have theirs printed on the back.

TASK	HOW OFTEN	LAST DONE
Replace smoke alarms U.S. Fire Administration	every 10 years	
Check the water heater anode rod Bradford White	every 2 years	
Pump the septic tank if you have one U.S. EPA	every 3 years	

General guidance for a typical Northern Hemisphere home; your manufacturer's instructions come first. Free from househand.illuminationdevelopment.com

- ☐ Check exterior caulk and weatherstripping University of Georgia Cooperative Extension
- ☐ Lubricate the garage door Clopay

Once a year

- ☐ Replace alarm batteries U.S. Fire Administration
- ☐ Service the air conditioner ENERGY STAR (U.S. EPA)
- ☐ Service the furnace or heat pump ENERGY STAR (U.S. EPA)
- ☐ Inspect the chimney Chimney Safety Institute of America (citing NFPA 211) if you have one
- ☐ Flush the water heater A. O. Smith
- ☐ Inspect washing machine hoses Whirlpool
- ☐ Clean refrigerator coils GE Appliances
- ☐ Clean the dryer vent National Fire Protection Association
- ☐ Winterize outdoor faucets University of Georgia Cooperative Extension if you have one
- ☐ Check the sprinkler system U.S. EPA WaterSense if you have one
- ☐ Check and seal the deck Thompson's WaterSeal if you have one
- ☐ Service the lawn mower Briggs & Stratton if you have one
- ☐ Inspect for termites and pests National Pest Management Association