Spring home maintenance checklist

Spring jobs

- [ ] Check exterior caulk and weatherstripping **March**
  Drafts and water get in through the same gaps.
- [ ] Service the lawn mower **March if you have one**
  A dull blade tears grass, and the engine starts first time with fresh parts.
- [ ] Inspect for termites and pests **March**
  Termite damage is rarely covered by homeowner's insurance.
- [ ] Service the air conditioner **April**
  Most AC breakdowns happen on the first hot week, when every technician is busy.
- [ ] Switch ceiling fan direction **April**
  It makes a room feel a few degrees cooler or warmer for almost nothing.
- [ ] Check the sprinkler system **April if you have one**
  A broken head can waste thousands of gallons before anyone notices.
- [ ] Clean the gutters **May**
  Blocked gutters overflow against the foundation and rot the fascia boards.
- [ ] Inspect the roof **May**
  A small repair caught early prevents a leak into the attic.

Once this season

- [ ] Change HVAC filter **every 3 months**
  A clogged filter makes the system work harder, costs more to run and shortens its life.

Twice a year

- [ ] Check for leaks under sinks
  A slow drip does its damage long before anyone notices a puddle.
- [ ] Check tub and shower caulk
  Gaps let water into the wall behind the tile, where it rots quietly.
- [ ] Replace whole-house water filter **if you have one**
  A spent filter stops filtering and slows water pressure through the whole house.
- [ ] Replace fridge water filter **if you have one**
  Old filters stop filtering and can slow the ice maker.
- [ ] Lubricate the garage door
  A noisy door is wearing out. A door that does not reverse is a safety hazard.

Every month

- [ ] Test smoke and CO alarms
- [ ] Check fire extinguishers
- [ ] Test GFCI outlets
- [ ] Test the sump pump **if you have one**
- [ ] Top up water softener salt **if you have one**
- [ ] Clean the dishwasher filter
- [ ] Clean range hood filter

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