

MY GO-2-GUY Handyman



Spring Maintenance Tips

Your home is likely the largest investment you'll ever make, so keeping your home in top shape requires year-round care. While each season brings different tasks and challenges for you, spring is an especially important time. It's when to assess winter wear and prepare for summer.

Regular home maintenance can really pay off. That's because many big home repairs start out small, but left unattended, become more costly problems. Simply by taking care of the little issues now, you can save yourself a lot of money and stress in the long run. Keeping a list of what needs to be done, and when, can also help you to avoid and prevent the most common household problems.

Many of the necessary tasks are probably easy enough for you to take care of yourself. However, if you don't feel comfortable or don't have the proper equipment, consider hiring a qualified local handyman to help.

This article should help provide some tips for needed maintenance around the home this time of the year.

1. Start by walking around your home and property and making a list of items that need attention.
2. Check your roof, verifying all roof shingles are still present (you may need binoculars), and if any are missing or torn, repair is needed to help prevent further damage or leakage. 
3. Next check your gutters and downspouts for damage. Clean and clear your eaves troughs and downspouts, and ensure your splash-pads are in their proper location to prevent soil erosion and to keep water well away



4. Now look for signs of damage and wear and tear to the property, such as loose siding or cracks in your bricks, foundation, walkway or driveway.
5. Late Spring is a great time to washing all the windows inside and out. If your home still has single pane windows and storm panes, now is the time to also replace the storm panes with the window screens. While you are checking your windows and screens, also check the home's exterior caulking and touch it up, where needed. Check your screens for holes or tears first and repair or replace them if needed.



6. While cleaning the windows, check the caulking at joints around doors and windows, where wiring and pipes enter the home, and where different building materials meet can help keep water, insects, and hot air out. Also, sealing joints where concrete patios or walkways, and driveways meet the home can help prevent water entry.
7. With summer just down the road, have your home's central cooling system serviced. Whether you have a heat pump or central A/C system, spring is the time to have it professionally serviced to be sure it is ready for summer. Next, check your air filter and change it if it is dirty. There are 30 day glass woven filters, 90 day paper element filters, and larger media type filters that typically need changing every 12 months. Minimally, I recommend the 90 day paper element filters. Note that the glass woven 30 day type block very little of the

Handy Hints & Tips

Keeping pictures hanging level



Push a straight pin into the bottom two corners of the picture on the backside, and then clip off the heads of the pins with diagonal cutters leaving about 1/4 of an inch sticking out of the frame. Hang the picture using a level, when set in place, gently push the section of the picture frame with the pins behind it into the drywall to secure the positioning of the picture. They'll stay straight and level for-ever now.

Shutting Off Gas and Water

I had a call last week from a client saying there was water pouring out from under their dishwasher and they didn't know how to turn off the water. I tried to guide them to find the shut-off for the washer and the house but neither could be found. When I got there they had water everywhere. I found the main shut-off but not before the damage was done to their hardwood, and basement. Be sure you know where and how to shut off gas and water to your house, and make sure everyone living in the house know as well. 

Labeling your cables

Instead of throwing away your old bread clips...why not recycle them and use them to label things such as your power/computer cables and such. 

Let me know what else you might use

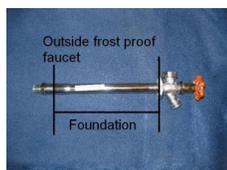
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dirt and dust that passes through your return ductwork. If you can easily see light through the filter, how good of a job at blocking dust can it do? Also, the air filter helps protect the A/C system's internal components. Now head outside; ensure that there is no vegetation within 24" of the outside compressor unit. If there is, trim it so this vegetation doesn't prevent the needed air circulation around the unit. If your home has upper and lower re-



turn louvers in the walls, open the top louvers and close the bottom ones once you start using the A/C.

8. Come mid-May you need to change the settings of your programmable thermostat to reflect the proper temperatures for cooling season. You should have already adjusted the thermostat's clock for daylight savings time I hope. You might be amazed at how much electricity a central cooling system consumes. If you don't have a programmable thermostat, you may want to think about installing one to help lower your energy bills. Also, if you have a heat pump system with built-in auxiliary heat (sometimes called emergency heat or EMHeat), you will normally need a special heat pump programmable thermostat that has the backup heat capability. You don't want to find out next winter that you can't heat your home due to the improper type of programmable thermostat.
9. Wait until the threat of freezing weather has passed before you turn on your exterior hose bibs or connect hoses. If it leaks and needs a new washer I'd recommend replacing it with a frost-proof sillcock which moves the shut-off to the warm side of the foundation.
10. Now is the time to start working on your curb appeal as well. Once the



ground has dried enough to walk on, give the grass and garden a good raking to remove all debris and thatch then spread a quality fertilizer.

Doing these sort of proactive measures in the spring will allow you to enjoy more time outside relaxing and less time working. You have a lot invested in your home, so protect that investment for years to come with a routine of seasonal maintenance.

Associations

We believe keeping abreast of new technologies, skills and safety practices are necessary in delivering top quality services to our clients. As such we frequently attend manufacturer and association seminars to stay current. This includes maintaining Ministry of Labour safety certification.

My Go-2-Guy is now a Life-Time member of the Association of Certified Handyman Professionals



We are also now a Gold member of Canadian Association of Renovators



My Go-2-Guy

Handyman Services

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Spring Specials

Spring Curb Appeal **\$325**

Front yard clean up includes:

- * Raking & dethatching
- * Aeration
- * Fertilizing (7-7-7-)
- * Digging front flower beds.
- * Power-wash front porch & driveway
- * Clean front door & front main floor windows, front trim and light fixture

Deck Rejuvenation **\$3/sq-ft**

Bring your wood deck back to life with our rejuvenation treatment which includes:

- * Report on deck condition and safety
- * Reset raised nails/screws
- * Pre-treatment with Simple-Green bio-degradable cleanser
- * Power wash
- * Return 5-day later to apply semi-transparent deck stain in one of 4 standard colours
- * Deck repairs are additional cost but performed at preferred rate.

Clothesline Installation **\$399**

Go green and install a clothes line to reduce your carbon footprint. Nothing smells better than clothes dried outside. It also saves on hydro and gas fees.

- * Install 6" x 6" x 16' pressure treated post down to frost line with concrete footing
- * Install 48" clothes line elevator on house.
- * Includes up to 100' of heavy-duty vinyl coated line.
- * Dual line for additional \$175

(prices do not include HST)