

First Time Home Buyers Program

HOUSEWARMING

11 MUST-HAVE TOOLS FOR EVERY HOME:

- Hammer
- Screwdrivers
- Level
- Pliers
- Duct tape
- Shovel
- Ladder
- Tape measure
- Utility knife
- Hand saw
- Power drill

GENERAL MONTHLY HOME MAINTENANCE

- Clean the furnace filter to remove dust build-ups, make it easier to regulate your home's temperature, and ultimately decrease utility bills.
- Clean faucet aerators and showerheads to remove mineral deposits.
- Inspect tub and sink drains for debris; unclog.
- Test smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, and all ground-fault circuit interrupters.
- Inspect electrical cords for wear.
- Vacuum heat registers and heat vents.
- Check that indoor and outdoor air vents are not blocked.
- If applicable, check the water softener and replenish salt.
- If applicable, clean the garbage disposal/garburator by grinding ice cubes, then flushing with hot water and baking soda.

SPRING HOME MAINTENANCE

- Inspect roofing for missing, loose, or damaged shingles and leaks.
- Change the air-conditioner filter.
- Clean window and door screens.
- Polish wood furniture, and dust light fixtures.
- Refinish the deck.
- Power-wash windows and siding.
- Remove leaves and debris from gutters and downspouts.
- Replace the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- If, applicable, have a professional inspect and pump the septic tank.
- Inspect sink, shower, and bath caulking for deterioration.
- Vacuum lint from dryer vent.
- Inspect chimney for damage.
- Repair or replace caulking and weather stripping around windows, doors, and mechanicals.
- Remove insulation from outdoor faucets and check sprinkler heads.
- Have air-conditioning system serviced.
- Drain or flush water heater.
- Fertilize your lawn.

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SUMMER HOME MAINTENANCE

- Oil garage-door opener and chain, garage door, and all door hinges.
- Remove lint from inside and outside washer hoses and dryer vents.
- Clean kitchen exhaust fan filter.
- Clean refrigerator and freezer coils and empty and clean drip trays.
- Check dishwasher for leaks.
- Check around kitchen and bathroom cabinets and around toilets for leaks.
- Replace interior and exterior faucet and showerhead washers if needed.
- Seal tile grout.
- Prune trees and shrubs.

AUTUMN HOME MAINTENANCE

- Rake leaves and aerate the lawn.
- Have forced-air heating system inspected by a professional. Tip: schedule an inspection in late summer or early fall before the heating season begins.
- Check fireplace for damage or hazards, and clean fireplace flues.
- Seal cracks and gaps in windows and doors with caulk or weather stripping; replace if necessary.
- Swap old, drafty windows for more energy-efficient models.
- Touch up exterior siding and trim with paint.
- Inspect roofing for missing, loose, or damaged shingles and leaks.
- Power-wash windows and siding.
- Remove leaves and debris from gutters and downspouts.
- Mend cracks and gaps in the driveway and walkway.
- Drain and winterize exterior plumbing.
- Have fireplace professionally inspected.
- Tune up major home appliances before the holidays.
- Repair or replace siding.
- Replace the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Install a smoke detector on every floor of your home, including the basement.
- Clean the carpets.
- Clean window and door screens.
- Vacuum lint from dryer vent.
- Inspect exterior door hardware; fix squeaky handles and loose locks.
- Check for frayed cords and wires.
- Drain and store hoses, and drain in-ground sprinkler systems.
- Wrap insulation around outdoor faucets and pipes in unheated garages.
- Check water heater for leaks.

WINTER HOME MAINTENANCE

- Cover your air-conditioning unit.
- Check basement for leaks during thaws.
- Inspect the roof, gutters, and downspouts for damage after storms.
- Vacuum bathroom exhaust fan grill, refrigerator/freezer coils and empty and clean drip trays.
- Clean drains in sinks, tubs, showers, and dishwashers.