

# SPRING CLEANING CHECKLIST

## INTERIOR

- Change or clean furnace filter every month or as needed.
- Clean Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV) filters and over the range hood filter (if applicable).
- Monitor home's humidity and condensation; avoid excessively high humidity levels. If your home is equipped with a humidifier, check the manual for the correct setting. This is also a good time to do your yearly cleaning of the humidifier and replace the filter.
- Check weather-stripping and caulking throughout your home and touch-up as needed.
- Clean and test smoke, carbon monoxide and security alarms. Smoke alarms are hard wired into your home and often come with a battery back-up. Batteries should be changed yearly.
- Operate air conditioning system – if service is needed, it is more conveniently arranged before the busiest part of the season arrives. Most air conditioning units will not run unless the outdoor temperature is at least 15°C. Your air conditioner should be serviced every two to three years.
- Test and re-set ground fault circuit interrupters (GFI) breakers.
- Dust your home thoroughly. This includes hard-to-reach places such as window casings and light fixtures. Always work from the top of a room down, vacuuming the dust that settles on the floor.
- Clean window treatments. Many draperies and curtains are machine washable (check the labels). Dry clean fabric shades. Wipe wooden blinds with a damp cloth; warm water mixed with a mild dishwashing liquid is safe for metal and vinyl blinds.
- Clean all kitchen appliances (inside and out).
- Turn over or rotate your mattress to distribute the wear evenly. Replace cool-weather bedding with warm-weather bedding.

## EXTERIOR

- Clean windows, screens and hardware and re-install screens. To clean window screen, use warm water and a mild dishwashing liquid. Scrub each screen with a brush and rinse thoroughly.
- Wash outdoor furniture. Most materials, including aluminum, plastic, wood and wicker, can handle a solution of mild dishwashing liquid and water and a soft-bristle brush.
- Check for soil settlement at the foundation; fill where necessary to maintain positive slope for water to drain away from the foundation.
- Inspect the roof and associated exterior finishes.
- Check eaves troughs and downspouts for loose joints; clear obstructions and ensure water flows away from your foundation.
- Clean gutters and confirm that downspouts or splash blocks drain away from the foundation.
- Inspect deck for required maintenance (if applicable).
- Ensure sump pump is operating properly before the spring thaw sets in. Ensure discharge pipe is connected and water drains away from the foundation. Attach extension hose if needed.
- Open valve to outside hose connection after all danger of frost has passed. Start and adjust sprinkler system.
- Check garage overhead door; tighten bolts as needed and lubricate all wheels and hinges. Other repairs should be left to the professionals