



16 Steps for Springtime Home Maintenance in Michigan

- **01. Check for Winter Damage:** Walk all around your home looking closely for any damage. Watch for shingles that are loose or missing, siding that's damaged, gutter and downspout damage, and cracks in the sidewalks or driveway.
- **02. Check Screen Doors and Windows:** Screens keep the bugs out and let the breezes in. Look for tears or holes. Even the smallest holes can let in those pesky mosquitoes. Repair kits are available at hardware stores.
- **03. Inspect the Foundation:** In your walk around your home, pay special attention to your foundation. Snow and ice can open up basement or crawl space cracks that let in snowmelt as well as summer rain and storms.
- **04. Clean Up the Yard:** Remove fallen tree limbs, rake up all those leaves you missed in the fall, and put down fresh mulch.
- **05. Trim Trees and Shrubs:** Cut back any limbs hanging over your home and threatening to come down in a storm. Also, trim back branches to improve airflow and sunlight. This will reduce the risk of mold and mildew growth.
- **06. Clean Out Gutters and Downspouts:** Clean out gutters and downspouts twice a year. Keeping them flowing during rainstorms is vital to making sure water doesn't pool around your foundation, finding cracks, and entering your basement or crawl space.
- **07. Clear Outdoor Drainage:** Work over your buried drains, storm drains, and other rainwater management systems. Include your downspout extensions on this list. Clear out any clogs with a plumbing snake, then wash out pipes with a garden hose.
- **08. Inspect Outdoor Plumbing:** Freezing weather doesn't help anything that's outdoors. Check your outdoor faucets, heat pump or AC unit, pool equipment, and anything else that's spent the winter outside.



- **09. Test Irrigation Systems:** Run it through all the zones and walk each one to make sure it's working correctly. Repair pipes, valves, and sprinkler heads. It's also a good time to make adjustments to ensure last year's dry spot is fixed.
- **10. Reseed Lawn Bare Spots:** Look for bare or thin spots and reseed with a matching type of grass. Try a lawn seed blanket on slopes to keep the seed in place while it germinates and sets roots.
- **11. Maintain Foundation Landscaping:** Make sure window wells are clear of plant growth, drained, and sealed against rain. Trim shrubs away from the foundation and watch for root growth near the foundation.
- **12. Inspect for Pest Evidence:** Check around the foundation as well as the roof eaves for pest evidence. Ants, termites, and burrowing animals cause damage at ground level. Bats, birds, squirrels, and flying insects can damage your roof.
- **13. Power Wash the Deck and Siding:** Make sure you use the correct pressure setting that matches the wood and siding. As an example, some vinyl siding companies recommend using liquid soap to avoid damage to the finish.
- **14. Reseal Woodwork:** Decks, trellises, fences, and other outdoor structures need regular maintenance. Spring is a perfect time to stain and reseal them. It's also a good time to make any needed repairs.
- **15. Schedule HVAC Service:** It's going to be hot and humid soon. It's best to have your air conditioning system in top shape to keep your family cool this summer. Regular HVAC maintenance can also identify any problems early before they become a major disaster.
- **16. Plan Summer Projects:** If you've been stuck at home over the past year, you've probably thought of any number of home improvement projects. This is a good time to consolidate that list with the home repairs you've identified above.

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