

# Spring Checklist for Routine House Maintenance

This checklist can be used for regular maintenance of the home. Some items on it should be done much more regularly, but at a minimum you should get them checked yearly.

## Heating, Cooling, and Air Quality:

- Ensure your fireplace is inspected and serviced to keep the home warm and safe.
- Service the HVAC system or heat pump.
- Clean and maintain all household appliances, such as vacuuming refrigerator coils and defrosting the fridge, ensuring they're easy to use and safe.
- Ensure extractor fans in the kitchen and bathroom are functioning properly to reduce moisture and mold.

## Safety and Security Measures:

- Ensure all alarms, including burglar and fire alarms, are functional.
- Regularly test and replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Check that all locks on doors and windows are easy to use but secure.
- Check grab bars in bathrooms are solid
- Ensure proper lighting in all areas of the house, especially stairways, to prevent tripping.
- Check medical alert systems.

## Indoor Maintenance and Comfort:

- Check for mold or dampness around the house, especially near windows and on ceilings, to keep the environment healthy.
- Ensure windows are easy to open and close, consider crank-operated windows if necessary.
- Rotate or flip mattresses for even wear and comfort.
- Clean or change curtains for a fresh indoor look.
- Organize cupboards; consider lowering shelves for easy access.
- Inspect bathroom and kitchen grouts for cleanliness.
- Evaluate the flooring: replace worn carpeting or consider non-slip options.
- Tighten and check handles and knobs in the house; replace with lever-type handles for ease of use.
- Lubricate door hinges to prevent them from getting stiff.

## Water and Plumbing Checks:

- Address any signs of water accumulation to prevent slipping hazards.
- Clean gutters to prevent water damage and leaks.
- Regularly check for plumbing issues to ensure faucets and toilets are easy to operate.

## Exterior Maintenance and Accessibility:

- Ensure the paint on the house is fresh and in good condition.
- Check the structural integrity of the home, looking out for cracks or holes.
- Ensure pathways, driveways, and entrances are free from obstacles, are even, and have handrails where necessary.
- Inspect decks or patios for loose boards or tripping hazards.
- Get the roof inspected for potential damages.
- Check ramps at entrances are non slip.

## Garden and Outdoor Care:

- Trim trees, ensuring they don't interfere with electric lines or paths.
- Check the garden for any plants growing into cracks or holes in the house.
- Check outdoor lighting for safe evening navigation.

## General Considerations:

- Consider installing or checking handrails in key areas around the home, especially in bathrooms and on stairways.
- Ensure common items are within easy reach to avoid the need for step stools.
- Keep a list of emergency numbers in a visible and accessible location.
- Consider having a regular caretaker or family member help with tasks that may be challenging.