



Heart & Soul
Handyman

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A checklist of
**Spring & Summer Tasks to
Maintain Your Home**

Serving Residential and Business Customers in Somerset, Morris & Warren Counties, NJ and N. Hampton, PA

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Regular maintenance is the key to preventing costly home repairs. To help keep your home in shape, there are steps you can take at the beginning of each season. With winter behind us, it's time to get your home ready for the longer days and warmer temperatures ahead.

These tips help guard and protect your home and yard against damage from the elements such as rain and sun, as well as insects, saving you time and money in the long run. The following checklists will help keep you on track:

Outdoors:

- Inspect exterior walls for peeling or blistering paint. This is a sign that the paint will no longer protect your home from the elements. Peeling paint should be scraped and new paint applied. A home should be painted every five to ten years, depending on location, what the home is made of, and the quality of the previous paint job.
- Exterior wood structures should be inspected and resealed. Make any necessary repairs to sheds, decks, fences, trellises, benches, and anything else made from natural wood. Apply a coat or two of wood stain to enhance the beauty of the wood and prevent it from drying out.
- Speaking of wood structures, inspect these for any signs of termites. If you see "winged ants," get a professional exterminator to take care of the problem right away before they do extensive damage.
- Inspect roof for missing or loose shingles or other damage that may have resulted over the winter. A visual inspection from the ground is usually sufficient. If you do see something out of place, call an experienced roofer to get a closer look and make any repairs. This is for your safety.
- Clean gutters and downspouts. When they're clogged, the water backs up and could cause the wood in your home to rot, resulting in extensive damage. Inspect all brackets and joints, and tighten any that have come loose. Replace old gutters with ones that have built-in leaf guards, and you can eliminate this step next season! And finally, ensure the downspouts divert water away from your foundation.
- Inspect your driveway for cracks. If they exist, clean them out, repair them with driveway filler, and a coat of sealer. This applies to sidewalks, as well. Damaged concrete should be replaced.
- Remove any standing water from around your property so as not to invite mosquitoes.
- Remove storm windows/doors and install summer screens. Repair any holes, no matter how small. Before storing the storm windows, clean and make any repairs, so they're ready for next season.
- Reconnect hoses to the outside faucets. Inspect for leaks.
- Ensure the lawn mower is functioning, fueled up and in a convenient location.
- Check in-ground sprinkler systems to ensure none of the heads are damaged or broken. Run the system and make adjustments to the direction of sprays to avoid waste.

Indoors:

- Hire a licensed professional to inspect and service the central air conditioning unit. Preventative care ensures a longer life and more efficient cooling.
- Reinstall window air conditioners, taking care to close any gaps to the outside to keep insects out and cool air in.
- Clean your dryer vent. This is a critical safety check to prevent a fire from accumulated lint.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace batteries.
- Change the direction of all ceiling fans to draw the warm air up away from your living area.

There's no question that maintaining your home takes time; however, these steps are necessary to protect your investment—one of the largest you'll make in your lifetime. If you prefer to use your weekends for road trips to the shore, call Heart & Soul Handyman to help get through this list and keep your home in tip-top shape.