

# LEWIS COUNTY CHAPTER OF OLYMPIA MASTER BUILDERS



## Jump Start Your Summer with Some Home Maintenance Essentials



Warmer weather and longer daylight hours are approaching which makes it an ideal time to check on areas in your house and yard that may need attention. Once you tend to the wear and tear from winter, you'll be ready to sit back and enjoy your home once spring is fully underway.

The following list will help get you started.

### Outdoors:

- Walk around the entire perimeter of your home and check the condition of any glazing compound, siding, caulk, and exterior paint. Replace or touch up wherever needed.

- Inspect your deck. Replace any popped nails and re-secure loose boards. Check for boards that are decaying and need to be updated. Sweep and gently clean the decking material. If your deck is made of wood, you may need to reseal it. To determine if your deck needs to be resealed, try sprinkling the surface with water and let it stand. If the water soaks in, it is time to reseal to protect the wood from future rain and humidity.
- Wipe down or hose off your outdoor furniture. Check cushions to see if they need cleaning, repair or replacement.

- Reinvigorate your yard. Seed and feed the lawn, plant annuals and cut back any perennials that need pre-growth pruning.
- Check your roof for any signs of winter damage from heavy snowfall or debris. Consider cleaning out your gutters even if you already did it in the fall in preparation for early spring rainfall. Remember to take special care when using a ladder. Read and follow directions carefully. Check for overhead power lines, set up the ladder at a safe angle and never stand on the top rungs.

water. If not, install screens and storm doors for added protection from the elements.

- Deep clean kitchen appliances and cabinets. Dust and grime can quickly build up in your cabinets and drawers and not only cause them to deteriorate over time but can also cause respiratory health issues.
- Refresh carpets and rugs from outdoor debris tracked in from boots over the winter. A good cleaning will freshen the look of the whole house.
- Prepare your screened porch or sunroom to handle outdoor allergens. If your porch takes in a significant amount of pollen when spring is in full swing, cover furniture until pollen season is over. When you're ready to open windows, carefully remove the sheets coated with pollen.
- Find signs of termites early. These insects are one of the most harmful household pests. Warm weather brings out termites. Check for sagging floors and ceilings and note any dry, brown tunnels in the ground near your home's foundation. Eliminating termites now can save you money in the future.

### Indoors:

- Hire a professional to clean and inspect your air conditioning system. If it has a filter, make sure it's been replaced within the last three months to keep everything working efficiently. According to Sharon Tisler of Chehalis Sheet Metal Heating & Cooling, "The purpose of preventative maintenance is to keep your HVAC system up and running all season long with no surprise breakdowns, enabling you to begin the heating and cooling seasons with reliable and efficient service while operating at maximum efficiency."
- Test your windows to see if they open and close properly. If you have window screens, gently wash them with soapy

If you need help with your spring home maintenance tasks, visit omb.org for a list of local professionals who can help you tackle your to-do list.



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