

# Home Maintenance Checklist

By Nicole Nichols-West

- Spring - Exterior**
  - Gutters and downspouts** These should be cleared out at the beginning of the year and checked to ensure there are no leaks.
  - Siding** A pressure washer can be used to clean away winter dirt and debris, and painting done on exposed wood if needed.
  - Roof** Check for missing shingles or flashing; replace if necessary.
  - Deck/porch** Check for loose railing or wobbly steps; clean with pressure washer and apply stain/sealant.
  - Landscaping** Schedule your lawn service to perform a general cleanup of the yard and arrange for regular lawn care.
  - Sprinklers** Test run your sprinkler system - if there is a problem, call your professional to fix it before it is needed.
  - Pesticide** Call a pest control company to spray for insects such as wasps, ants, spiders and mosquitoes.
- Spring - Interior**
  - Air conditioning system** Call a professional to conduct a check of your system before using it.
  - Hot water heater** Drain water and sludge and refill; have serviced by a plumber if needed.
  - Windows** Use a blow dryer to check for cracks and seal with caulk to increase energy savings.
  - Doors** Check screens for rips or holes; mend or replace as needed.
  - Smoke/carbon monoxide detectors** Test and replace batteries if needed.
- Fall - Exterior**
  - Oil/propane** Have tanks checked and filled in preparation for cold weather.
  - Lawn** Have a tree service take down any dead limbs and trim branches touching structures. Mulch garden, flowerbeds and plants in preparation for winter.
  - Concrete** Check driveways, sidewalks and foundations for cracks. Call a professional to mend them before freezing weather arrives.
  - Outside pipes** Turn off taps and drain pipes and hoses.
- Fall - Interior**
  - Heating system** Have a professional service your furnace before using it.
  - Fireplace** Have a chimney sweeping service clean the flue.
  - Attic.** Check for any cracks and stuff steel wool into holes to deter rodents
  - Windows and doors** Caulk cracks and replace weather-stripping if needed.

- Pantry** Lay in enough dry goods and bottled water in case of emergency in areas where major snowfall or power outages can occur.