



HOME MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

- **Gutters and downspouts:** Pull leaves and debris from gutters and downspouts. Reattach gutters that have pulled away from the house. Run a hose on the roof and check for proper drainage. If leaks exist, dry the area and use caulking or epoxy to seal the leak.
- **Windows and doors:** Check/replace weather stripping. Clean screening and check for holes. If holes are bigger than a quarter, that is plenty of room for bugs to climb in. Patch holes or replace the screen. Save bad screen to patch holes next year. Tighten or repair any loose or damaged frames and repaint. Replace broken, worn, or missing hardware. Wind can ruin screens and frames if they are allowed flap and move so make sure they are securely fastened. Tighten and lubricate door hinges and closers.
- **Clean your refrigerator coils and dryer vent:** The Electrical Safety Foundation International notes that these chores not only improve the efficiency of the appliances, but also guard against electrical hazards.
- **Evaporative air conditioner:** Clean unit, and drain unit. Cover w/weather resistant cover.
- **Get your furnace/heating ready:** You can hire a service company or do it yourself.
- **Foundation, chimney, and parapets:** Check foundation walls, floors, concrete, and masonry for cracking, heaving, or deterioration. If a significant number of bricks are losing their mortar, call a foundation professional. If you can slide a nickle into a crack in your concrete floor, slab or foundation, or parapets, call a professional immediately.
- **Roof:** Inspect roof surface flashing, eaves, and soffits. Check flashings around all skylights, vents and parapets.
- **Landscape:** Cut back and trim all vegetation and overgrown bushes from structures. Limbs and leaves can cut into your home's paint and force you to have that side of the house repainted. A little trimming can save a lot of money and time. Add mulch to bald patches as needed. For trees near power lines, hire a professional or call PNM.
- **Irrigation:** Drain and disconnect the system. Drain & store garden hoses. Cover hose bibs. Drain rain barrels.
- **Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors:** There should be at least one of each detector on every level of your house, and they should be working. Be sure to replace batteries.
- **Declutter:** We all have too much stuff. Get rid of items you don't use, including the stuff you have stored in the garage or basement because you "might" need it sometime.
- **Organize your paperwork:** Not being able to find an important document when you need it can cost you. Get rid of the paperwork you don't need while filing the paperwork you want to keep so you know where it is when you need it.
- **Winter is brutal for the homeless:** Donate unwanted clothing & blankets to local shelters.



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