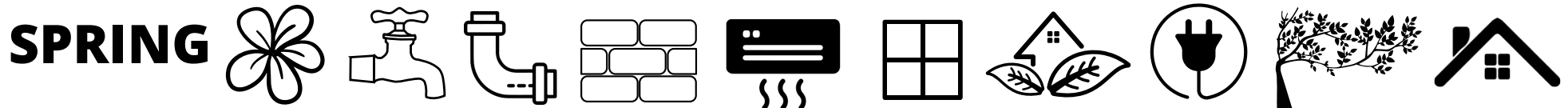




SPRING IS A BIG MONTH FOR HOME MAINTENANCE. THEY DON'T CALL IT "SPRING CLEANING" FOR NOTHING. ESPECIALLY FOCUS ON THE EXTERIOR OF YOUR HOME AS IT'S JUST GONE THROUGH WINTER AND IS PREPARING FOR SUMMER HEAT, AND IN SOME PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, BRUTAL HUMIDITY.



- 1 CHECK THE EXTERIOR DRAINAGE.** WILL RAINWATER FLOW AWAY FROM THE HOUSE? PUDDLES SHOULD NOT STAND AROUND YOUR HOME FOR MORE THAN 24 HOURS.
- 2 CLEAN OUT GUTTERS.** THEY'VE LIKELY ACCUMULATED LEAVES FROM THE FALL AND GRIME/SEDIMENT FROM THE WINTER SNOWS AND/OR RAINS.
- 3 INSPECT THE EXTERIOR OF YOUR HOME.** IS ANY PAINT CHIPPING? IS ANY SIDING DAMAGED FROM WINTER? ARE THERE ANY HOLES IN YOUR BRICK? MAKE ANY REPAIRS AS NEEDED. ALSO, CHECK THE FOUNDATION FOR ANY CRACKS. A GOOD SILICONE/CAULK CAN FIX A LOT.
- 4 GET YOUR AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM READY FOR SUMMER;** CONSIDER HAVING IT SERVICED. REFER TO THE USER GUIDES FOR SPECIFIC REGULAR MAINTENANCE. FOR CENTRAL AIR, GETTING IT SERVICED BY A PROFESSIONAL SHOULD BE AROUND \$100 OR LESS, AND IT WILL SAVE MONEY AND HEADACHES DOWN THE ROAD.
- 5 REPAIR/REPLACE DAMAGED WINDOW SCREENS.** YOU DON'T WANT BUGS MAKING THEIR WAY IN BECAUSE YOU MISSED A HOLE IN A WINDOW SCREEN. AND NO, DUCT TAPE DOESN'T COUNT. IT CAN BE A QUICK FIX BUT DON'T LEAVE IT FOR LONG.
- 6 CLEAR DEAD PLANTS/SHRUBS FROM THE HOUSE.** PLANTS CAN WEASEL THEIR WAY INTO CRACKS ON THE EXTERIOR OF YOUR HOME, CAUSING DAMAGE AND SHORTENED LONGEVITY.
- 7 CHECK TREES FOR INTERFERENCE WITH ELECTRIC LINES.** HAVE PROFESSIONALLY TRIMMED IF NECESSARY.
- 8 INSPECT ROOFING FOR DAMAGE, LEAKS, ETC. REPAIR AS NEEDED;** YOU MAY NEED A PROFESSIONAL.