

SMART THINKING

Spring 2021

Spring Tree Maintenance

Proper tree maintenance around your home could save you from future claims and lengthen the life of your roof, siding, and deck. Here are a few tree trimming tips to keep in mind this spring.

- Remove dead branches and trees near your home, garage, and other structures to prevent damage.
- Keep an eye out for trouble signs such as cracks in tree trunks and limbs or significant leaning and low hanging branches.
- Never trim or remove trees near power lines. Call a licensed arborist for assistance.
- Examine large trees near the perimeter of your home as a storm could uproot these trees and cause damage to the foundation or roof of your home.
- Remember to be cautious with power tools and ladders. It is a good idea to have someone assist you with this activity and to hire a professional for complex jobs.
- Keep tree branches trimmed to at least six feet from any structure.
- Before you trim or cut down a tree, make sure it's on your property. If you're unsure, your deed should outline property lines. If not, you can check with your town office or confirm with your neighbors.

Water Line Servicing

- **Check your refrigerator water supply lines to the ice and water dispensers.** Some manufacturers install fragile plastic lines which over time could be subject to crimping and tearing, and potential water leaks. Upgrading your supply line to a copper line could help you avoid water damage.
- **Inspect your washing machine hose.** Rubber water hoses could become brittle and crack over time. Replace worn or damaged hoses with a burst proof hose to help prevent water damage.
- **Review water supply lines to your sinks and toilets.** These lines can become loose or worn and potentially burst. Replacing these lines when needed is an easy task which could save you time and money.
- **Inspect exterior spigots.** Although many are now considered "frost free", exterior spigots can still freeze in certain conditions. Check for leaks and continue to monitor throughout the spring and summer seasons.

TIP!

Before departing for vacation, consider turning off your main water supply valve to minimize the threat of water damage in your home.

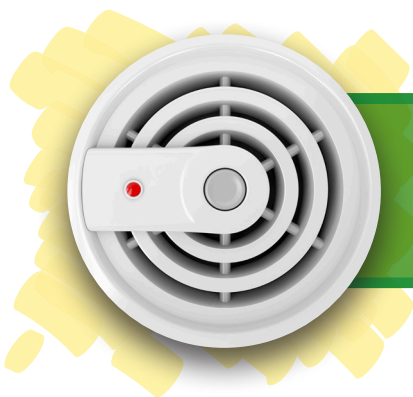



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Spring Safety Checklist

Dedicating a few hours for property maintenance this spring will ensure your home stays in great shape and your family can enjoy the season ahead.

- ☐ Inspect your roof for damage. Check all slopes for deterioration to prevent interior water damage.
- ☐ Clean out roof gutters and drains. Be sure to set ladders on a firm and level surface before climbing onto your roof.
- ☐ Inspect the entrance power line into your home for deterioration and confirm the wire is properly sealed to prevent water infiltration.
- ☐ Review all siding, fascia, decking, and trim boards for deterioration.
- ☐ Repair and fill any cracks and potholes in your driveway.
- ☐ Familiarize yourself with power tools before use.
- ☐ Inspect and replace damaged or worn extension cords.
- ☐ Clean your grill and check for leaks in the gas line before use.
- ☐ Keep a fire extinguisher accessible in areas of need.
- ☐ Always call Dig Safe at 811 before digging to install fence posts, plant trees, etc.
- ☐ Make sure that all steps and stairs on your property have a sturdy handrail installed at an appropriate height. Keep steps and landings free from obstructions and debris to reduce the possibility of trip and fall accidents.
- ☐ Test your sump pump to make sure it is operating correctly.
- ☐ Check your hot water heater for corrosion and leaks.
- ☐ Schedule a service for your air conditioning systems.
- ☐ Clean your dryer vent hose and exhaust vent.
- ☐ Inspect and clean all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



PREVENTION TIP: CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES!

When the seasons change, so should the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors! Use this opportunity to test your detectors and confirm they are in good working order.



HOT TIP FOR GRILLING SAFETY:

Before firing up your grill this year, check out our grilling safety video to prepare for a safe and fun season ahead!



Scan To View Our
Grilling Safety Video