



# Routine Home Maintenance

Your home may be the biggest investment you will ever make. An experienced home owner knows the importance of a good home maintenance checklist. This will help you stay on top of tasks like inspecting exterior windows and doors, making sure gutters are not clogged and replacing siding when needed.

By taking care of these maintenance tasks, you'll keep your family safe, save money on repairs down the road and extend the life of your house. Taking good care of it with regular maintenance is necessary to preserve its value and ensure it will provide a comfortable, safe shelter for you and your family for years to come.

## Key Outdoor Maintenance Tasks to Protect Your Home

### Roof, Gutters and Downspouts

- A qualified roofer should inspect your roof every three years. Skylights should also be inspected each time your roof is inspected so leaks don't develop from cracks and interruptions around the seals, caulking and flashings.
- Make sure that gutters and downspouts do not get clogged with leaves or other objects.

### Windows and Doors

- Inspect exterior windows and doors yearly to see if the caulking around them has split and cracked. If so, replace the caulk and clean any mildew.
- For a simple solution to wash extremely dirty exterior windows, combine equal parts vinegar and water or three tablespoons of denatured alcohol per quart of warm water. Use a piece of crumbled newspaper to wash the glass to avoid lint left behind by paper towels.
- To help a window slide easily, rub the channel with a piece of paraffin.

### Siding

- Inspect your siding yearly to determine if your wood-sided home needs to be repainted. Trim shrubbery away so that it does not touch the siding.
- The exterior of your house is built to withstand exposure to the elements, but a periodic cleaning will improve the appearance and, in many instances, prolong the life of siding and other exterior products.

### Garage

- The moving parts of garage doors should be oiled every three months.

## Learn More

Explore additional home maintenance tips at [nahb.org/consumers](https://www.nahb.org/consumers).

