

6 Early Spring-Forward Home Prep Steps



The following home care steps, including exterior maintenance, landscaping and gardening tips, an interior refresh, and home-selling advantages, will get you and your home spring-ready.

1. Schedule gutter cleaning and roof inspections.

- ☐ **Gutter cleaning.** Even if you did this in the fall, it's best to repeat due to leaf and debris buildup, and to keep water away from the foundation. Early spring is best, before heavy rains begin.
- ☐ **Roof inspection.** Hire a professional to look for roof damage from winter weather. Repair missing or damaged shingles, leaks, and nail pops to avoid water inside the house.

2. Wash the home's exterior.

- ☐ **Softly wash your home's exterior, driveway, and walkways.** This removes salt, sand, dirt, and mold and brightens the property. We do NOT recommend "power" washing your house — it can lead to damage and leaks.



3. Perform septic system maintenance.

- ☐ **Use spring as a reminder to pump it out.** This provides long-term optimal functioning.
- ☐ **Add enzymes.** Spring is a great time to use enzymes for faster breakdown of winter waste.
- ☐ **Proactively address drain issues.** Bad odors, slow drains, gurgling, and a wet septic field can become costly emergencies. Hire a professional septic service for solutions.
- ☐ **Avoid planting trees, shrubs, or heavy landscaping objects near the drain field.** This minimizes the risk of root encroachment and other damage.

6 Early Spring-Forward Home Prep Steps Continued...

4. Plan landscaping.

- ☐ **Lawn care.** Prep your lawn by fertilizing and using pre-emergent to help prevent weeds.
- ☐ **Garden planning.** Start seedlings for outdoor gardens indoors and see fresh produce sooner. Native and hardy plants, like herbs, transition well.
- ☐ **Tree and shrub pruning.** Trim dead branches and shape trees and bushes before new growth starts to encourage healthy development. Learn which ones like spring pruning and which prefer fall.
- ☐ **Mulching and edging.** Add a new layer of mulch to retain moisture and prevent weed growth. For no-maintenance beds, switch to granite rocks/gravel.
- ☐ **Outdoor living spaces.** In late February or early March, start planning a patio or deck installation. Contractors are typically slow; get on the books early and enjoy your outdoor space all summer.

5. Transition your home's interior from winter to spring.



- ☐ **Deep clean.** Dust and vacuum unseen places, like under furniture, along baseboards, and upper and lower vents.
- ☐ **Swap out textiles.** Replace heavy blankets and dark winter decor with lighter, brighter colors and fabrics.
- ☐ **Improve indoor air quality.** Open windows for fresh air, replace HVAC filters, and consider adding indoor plants, such as Dracaena, for natural air purification and oxygen production.
- ☐ **Check seasonal systems.** Hire a reputable company to test your HVAC system to ensure it's running efficiently and ready for the heat.

6. List your home for sale or begin building one.

- ☐ **List your home for sale in early spring.** Instead of waiting until warmer weather, when inventory and competition are at their peak, list early for a potentially higher selling price and a faster process.
- ☐ **Arrange for financing.** The off-season home sales cycle can be faster, including approvals and loans, thereby saving time and money.
- ☐ **Start the home building process now.** This timing can provide a faster move-in date, lower materials costs, and an easier time securing your first choice on a plot of land.