



1951 Johns Drive—Glenview, Illinois 60025—847-998-1687—Fax 847-998-0434

www.restorethenorthshore.com

HOMEOWNERS SPRING MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST:

Spring has sprung and it's time to make sure that your home runs smoothly throughout the summer.

OUTSIDE

Clean your gutters and downspouts. Get the hose out and test the gutters to make sure they flow in the proper direction and drain properly. Also, make sure your downspouts are diverted at least six feet away from your home. This helps prevent water from leaking into your basement.

Date Completed: _____

Notes: _____

Make a visual inspection of the roof while you are cleaning the gutters, and make any necessary repairs. Check flashings around chimneys and vent pipes. Make sure the attic venting is clear of obstructions.

Date Completed: _____

Notes: _____

Trim bushes and trees back from the house so limbs are not rubbing the roof or siding. Over time this could trap moisture against the house that will rot out the siding and window sills.

Date Completed: _____

Notes: _____

Turn on the hose bibs and check for leaks. In older homes, you will need to turn on the valve in the basement and then go outside and open the hose bib. If you have a newer home you will likely have frostless hose bibs and they usually do not have a shut-off valve.

Date Completed: _____

Notes: _____

Remove the storm windows and doors and install screens. Replace bad weather-stripping and caulk areas that need it.

Date Completed: _____

Notes: _____

INSIDE:

Be sure to clean and dry your humidifier before storing for the summer. If moisture is left in the unit, mold will grow and blow throughout your house when you use the humidifier again next winter.

Date Completed: _____

Notes: _____

Replace the furnace/air conditioner filter. If your filter has been in the furnace or air cleaner all winter (or longer) it is probably full of dust and ready to be changed. Also, have a technician check the air compressor outside so your AC is working on the first hot day.

Date Completed: _____

Notes: _____

KEEP READING FOR MORE TIPS!

(Continued on page 2)

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Before (above); country sink (right); finished shower area (below).



The main goal of this bathroom remodel was to change the bathtub into a usable shower. In addition, all fixtures needed to be updated while striving to regain the original elegance of the 1930's architecture.

D/R Services achieved this by using beautiful modern retro-fixtures, such as a wall mounted country sink with exposed chrome drain and supply lines. The addition of dark oak medicine cabinets, subway tile in the shower stall and an arid hexagon mosaic floor tile completed the project. We also built a comfortable seat in the shower and used a frameless shower door to expose the beauty of the stall itself. Some of the modern improvements that fit in well to this remodel included a recessed shampoo/soap dish, and a hand held shower head. Additional overhead lighting with variable dimmer control switches and a light fixture that incorporated heat/light/vent warmed the room. We also kept the character of the room by not changing the angles of the ceiling.

The homeowners are extremely delighted customers who love our crews—from the Project Manager to the on-site workers. They are extremely happy with the finished product and enjoy their daily use of their "new" bathroom!



SHOULD I HAVE A BACKUP SUMP PUMP INSTALLED?

Some plumbers refer to basements as “empty in ground swimming pools” just waiting for moisture due to their tendency to collect (unwanted) water. With all the snow melt we are experiencing topped off with the spring rains that always occur, your sump pump will be straining to handle the water Mother Nature throws at it.

More and more insurance companies are not covering the type of damage that occurs as a result of sump pump failure or are charging an additional premium for it.

If you have an electric sump pump in your basement, you should probably consider having a battery back-up pump installed.

Primary sump pumps fail for several reasons, the main and most obvious being power failure, but in addition:

- ◆ The pump may be burned out, unplugged or jammed with mud or a stone
- ◆ There may be a broken impeller or drive shaft
- ◆ The float switch could be stuck or broken
- ◆ There is a tripped circuit breaker, a blown fuse or damaged power feed line
- ◆ There is too much water or a clogged intake

The back-up works as a support to your main pump. It is hooked up to a battery and placed above the main pump in the pit. If the main pump fails for any reason, the water level reaches the back-up pump and it is activated, saving your basement from water invasion.

Backups come as simple as a pump hooked up to a battery and as sophisticated as having alarm systems which monitor pump flow, battery charge and fluid levels.

Once you have your back-up installed, remember to use your back-up as just that—a back-up. If there is mechanical failure to your main pump, replace it right away to preserve your back-up for the next power outage or emergency.

WELCOME TO MIGHTY HOUSE With Ron Cowgill Plus Joe Builder & The Mighty House Team



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CHECKLIST (Contd.)

(Continued from page 1)

Check and test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors if you haven't already. A good rule of thumb is to change the batteries when you change your clocks for daylight savings.

Date Completed: _____

Notes: _____

Have your hot water heater drained and flushed. The sediments in the bottom of the tank can destroy your water heater. Flushing the tank will make it work more efficiently and last longer.

Date Completed: _____

Notes: _____

Check your sump pump switches to make sure they are turning on and off properly. Make sure the battery in the sump pump's back-up system is full of distilled water and is charging properly. The discharge pipes should also be checked for cracks and clogs.

Date Completed: _____

Notes: _____

We know this process can be tedious, time-consuming and generally not fun, but now that you're done, you can enjoy your house for the spring and summer!

Don't forget to call D/R Services Unlimited for any repairs you need!

Tips to Reduce Stress During Your Remodeling Project

PLAN AHEAD

No Water or Power ~ Know in advance if and when workers plan to shut off your power and water. You can avoid food spoilage in the refrigerator/freezer. Also, be prepared by having a supply of bottled water on hand. Make temporary arrangements with a neighbor or friend when "nature calls."

Create a Phase List of Procedures ~ Meet with the contractor and create a list of work that will be done. Try to incorporate a chronological timeline so you'll know what phase of the project you can expect next.

Make an Extra Key or Create a Temporary Security Code ~ There may be a need to share keys or opener/security codes with the contractor or workers. Keep track of any keys given out. If you give an opener or security door code, create a temporary code while the work is in progress. Once the work is complete, return to your regular code. Don't forget to ask who will take responsibility for any mishaps.

DOUBLE-CHECK ALL MATERIALS UPON ARRIVAL

Is That the Right Color? ~ Once tile, cabinets, baseboards are installed, there's no turning back (or at least it can be very expensive to have to do so). Before workers start drilling, gluing, nailing, painting, etc. make sure the product you ordered matches the product that was delivered to your home – don't just trust the box it came in. Open it!

Don't Plan to 'Buy as You Go' ~ You can cut down on last-minute stressful decisions as well as material availability delays by selecting all materials with your contractor in advance.

BATTEN DOWN YOUR BELONGINGS

Cover Furniture and Carpeting ~ Your contractor will take the necessary steps to protect and cover the work area, but remodeling leaves more dirt and dust throughout the house than you can imagine. You may want to cover furniture in other areas of the house, especially in rooms adjacent to work being performed.

Dryclean Drapes, Rugs and Upholstery ~ Use remodeling time as a perfect excuse to have curtains, rugs and upholstery cleaned. Otherwise, remove as practical and place them away from work being performed.

Store Breakables ~ Accidents happen. Box away knick-knacks and personal mementos from the construction zone for safe keeping. If furniture is to be moved, pack contents in boxes and remove them from the work area. This protects contents from loss and breakage, and also prevents the homeowner having to dust or clean each knick-knack after work is complete.

STAY OUT OF CONSTRUCTION AREA

Safety First ~ Keep children, toys and pets away from the work area.

Maintain Schedule ~ Enter the work area when workers are on a break or after they have finished for the day to eliminate disruptions and injury to the homeowner or workers. This is important for maintaining construction schedules as well as safety for the homeowner and workers.

Create Space ~ Make Adequate room for tools, equipment, materials and workers. Remove your items from the work area so the contractor has sufficient space to work.

BE HOSPITABLE

Basic Human Relations ~ Realize that workers are going to be a part of your lives

for a period of time. Win cooperation from workers and the contractor with mutual respect and honesty.

Refreshments ~ It's a nice gesture for hard work. An unexpected coffee or a cold glass of lemonade will always get a "thank you".

Give Compliments ~ Nothing makes anyone work harder than a sincere word of appreciation and gratitude.

Be Cool and Calm ~ Take a deep breath, step back and trust his or her skills. Time-clocking workers only builds resentment and tension. Be flexible if you want to save a penny or speed up the work process.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

No one can prepare for the unseen incidents that may transpire during remodeling projects. Tearing down a wall may uncover a problem that demands plan revisions. Remember, late deliveries, inclement weather and wrong parts are not necessarily related to the contractor. The relationship you establish with your contractor can greatly improve the overall remodeling experience.

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"Green" Made Simple: Recycle, Reuse

When most people think of recycling, they think of the newspapers, cans and bottles they put out for the garbage recycling. Construction waste, as it turns out, accounts for 30% of landfill contributions each year, accounting for 136 million tons of waste annually.

Like the paper, cans and bottles you leave out each week, a lot of "garbage" from your remodeling project can be reused or recycled.

D/R Services Unlimited strives to do our part in reducing the amount of construction waste we contribute.

Materials such as metal, wood and concrete can be recycled and made into other products.

Other waste can be re-used "as is". You may be making a cosmetic change to match your new space - new cabinets, flooring, appliances, doors—but what you have may still work well in someone else's home. There are several non-profit organizations in the Chicago area that will accept these donations and also earn you a tax deduction!

Both Ron and Lance are participating in the Green Education Program from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry and have great ideas to help reuse, recycle and make your project "green" while staying on budget. Make sure to ask them about it!



D/R Services Unlimited, Inc.
1951 Johns Drive
Glenview, Illinois 60025
Ph. 847-998-1687
www.restorethenorthshore.com

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