

# Spring News Letter



## Spring Check List

- Roof - Inspect the roof for winter damage: leaks, missing or broken shingles or tiles. Inspect flashing, eaves, and soffits.
- Gutters and downspouts - Clean out gutters; inspect and repair weaknesses; check for proper drainage.
- Paint - What areas need painting? How about a new color trim?
- Siding and trim - Inspect and clean siding. Check all wood surfaces for weathering and paint failure. Check for loose nails.
- Exterior caulking - Inspect caulking and replace if deteriorating. Caulk any leaks or cracks in basement walls and seal.
- Windows - Label and store removable storm windows and doors.
- Security - Make sure all doors and windows close and lock properly.
- Window and door screens - Wash windows, put up screens and patch any holes. Clean screening and repair or replace; repair any loose or damaged frames and repaint; replace broken, worn, or missing hardware; tighten and lubricate door hinges and closers.
- Window sills, door sills, and thresholds - Fill cracks, caulk edges, repaint; replace if necessary.
- Yard cleanup - Remove all debris from the yard. Clear away any remaining dead foliage and weeds from flowerbeds and lawn. Cut back and trim vegetation and overgrown bushes from structures. Begin spring landscaping projects.
- Organize - Create storage for sporting goods, camping equipment, and garden tools in your garage.
- Outdoor furniture - Inspect, clean and repair.
- Check for termites and insects - Call exterminator if needed.
- Open windows to ventilate.
- Give entire house overall cleaning.
- Deck and porches - Check decks, patios, porches, stairs, and railings for loose members and railings
- Drain waste and vent system - Flush out system.
- Hot-water heating system - Lubricate circulating pump and motor.
- Evaporative air conditioner - Clean unit; check belt tension and adjust; replace cracked or worn belt.
- Heat pump - Lubricate blower motor.
- Foundation - Check foundation walls, floors, concrete, and masonry for cracking, heaving, or deterioration.
- Flashing - Check flashings around all surface projections and sidewalls.
- Antenna - Check antenna and satellite dish supports.
- Sprinkler - Check sprinkler system for leaky valves and exposed lines.
- Water well - Have well water tested for safety.

### When was you Last Water Test?

Coliform bacteria live in soil, on vegetation and in surface water. Coliform bacteria found in the intestines of warm-blooded animals and their feces are called E.coli. Some strains of coliform bacteria can survive for long periods in soil and water and can be carried into well casings by insects. Bacteria washed into the ground by rainwater or snowmelt are usually filtered out as the water seeps through the soil, but they sometimes enter water supplies through cracks in well casings, poorly sealed caps, fractures in the underlying bedrock, and runoff into sinkholes. Coliform bacteria are the most common contaminants found in private water systems. Most Coliform bacteria do not cause illness, but indicate a breach in the water system. However, since E.coli bacteria are found in fecal material, they are often present with bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause flu-like symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, fever and diarrhea. Private wells should be tested at least once a year.

### GOOD TIME FOR RADON TESTING

With the weather starting to warm up, it's time for the list of spring chores. And right up there along with removing the storm windows and getting the central air conditioning checked, should be testing the radon levels inside your home.

Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, according to EPA estimates. Overall, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year. About 2,900 of these deaths occur among people who have never smoked.



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