

Ah Spring!

To stop problems before they start, walk around your house

by Glenn Haeger
America's Master Handyman

Hey, you've been wanting to get outside anyway. Might as well make one of your first walks, three times around the house.

A thorough early spring inspection is one of the most important things you can do for your house. It has been under tremendous strain, fighting the elements all winter. Water, ice, wind, freeze and thaw, have all been tearing away at your roofing, the paint or siding on your house, the putty on your windows, the deck, the electrical outlets.

Now that the snow has melted, grab a pencil and a piece of paper and tramp around the house three times. The first time look at the roof. The second time, look at the exterior of your home. The third time, look at the ground.

You don't have to climb on top of your roof to give it a good inspection. Go across the street and look at the roof. Are the shingles curling? Have a couple gotten loose or blown away? Are they old? Has the weight of the ice and snow loosened the gutters?

If you need a roof repair, now is the time to get it fixed, before spring rains create water damage. When you see loose shingles, or cracks in the gutters, it's always a good idea to go up into the attic and see if a roof leak has started, but is not yet visible on the ceiling or walls. You might be able to stop the leak before it causes major damage. If you need to re-shingle, start getting bids now, before the rush starts.

Next, circle the house looking at the walls and windows. Look for mortar cracks and places where the caulk has pulled away. How is the paint holding out? Will you have to repaint soon?

Remember, if you have aluminum siding, it should be spray cleaned at least once every two years if you want to keep the paint looking good. If you have not cleaned your aluminum siding every two years and it is now pitted and dull looking, no problem. Your aluminum siding can be repainted with beautiful results. Complete step-by-step instructions are in my book, "Take the Pain Out of Painting - Exteriors".

If you need to repaint, and are going to use a contractor, start getting bids now. If you're going to do the painting yourself, do your measurements, figure how much paint you'll need and be on the lookout for sales.

You want the highest quality exterior paint you can afford. When dry, quality exterior latex paint is almost twice as

thick, offers better protection, and stays better looking longer than a bargain paint. A quality exterior paint can outlast cheap paint two to one. Paint is the only protection the wood on your house has. Make sure that protection is the best that money can buy.

If you start pricing out paint now, you'll be able to take your time deciding what you want, and you'll be able to tell when a "sale" is really a sale. By the way, the Paint Quality Institute's studies, prove that, dollar for dollar, the longer lasting quality of premium exterior paint saves you money and makes it better buy than lower quality paints.

Check your thermal windows and sliding glass door walls. Are they in good condition? What about clouding? If they have begun to cloud inside the glass, it means the thermal seal is broken. The entire window doesn't have to be replaced, just the pane. If you have the problem, be aware and start budgeting for repair before next winter.

Finally, look down. What have the freeze-thaw cycles of Michigan winters done to your landscaping. Is the ground eroding from around the foundation of your house? Do you see puddles forming? That's called bird bathing. Do what you can to fill those holes, before the spring rains. Improper drainage is the biggest single cause of leaking basements. A little preventative maintenance now can save a lot of hard work later.

Make certain that the eve trough drains have not become plugged or mangled over the winter. Plugged drains can cause big problems.

Now, how about the deck? Does it look good, or are you getting nail pops, splitting or graying? Nail pops should be nailed back in immediately. Graying means that your deck will probably have to be power washed before staining. Get quotes now, before you have to stand in line.

After you've looked at your house and grounds, go inside and study your notes. Spring is here — it's time to start the "To Do" list!

You'll learn hints to most of the jobs on your "To Do" list by joining the more than 170,000 Detroiters who listen to Glenn Haeger's "Ask the Handyman Show" on WXYT - AM 1270 from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. Haeger's show, which celebrates its eleventh anniversary April 23, is the longest running, long format "How To" show in the nation.



Federal Fireplace

Barbecue & Patio Furniture

BBQ & PATIO

SALE

SAVE 25% - 40% STORE WIDE

IN STOCK & SPECIAL ORDER

- + LARGEST SELECTIONS
- + AFFORDABLE PRICES
- + WE CAN ASSEMBLE, SERVICE & INSTALL
- + WHAT WE SALE

Samsonite

HALCYON SUNDANCE

- + Samsonite 15 yr. warranty on frame, Finish & Strap
- + Styling, comfort & durability
- + Wide range of colors & fabrics
- + Dining Chairs & Table

\$599⁹⁷ reg. 823.00

100'S OF MAINTENANCE FREE FABRIC & FRAMES TO CHOOSE

O.W. LEE & LYON SHAW QUALITY

OUTDOOR WROUGHT IRON FURNITURE

- + Glass & mesh top tables available
- + Classic styling & timeless beauty
- + Wide range of colors frames & fabrics
- + Cans, end tables & bar sets also on sale
- + MADE IN USA - EXCLUSIVE RIB RUST WARRANTY
- + Dining Chairs & 48" Table

5 PIECE SETS FROM \$699⁹⁷





SAVE \$90.00

1994 **Ducoba** GAS GRILLS

"BEST BUY" by Consumers Digest

- +FREE Heavy Duty Vinyl Cover
- +Removable side shell
- +Stainless Steel Grills, Grates & Burners
- + 5 yr. Warranty

BEST FLAVOR OF ANY GAS GRILL

\$349⁹⁷

112025 L.P. cart or Natural Post or Propane
411 sq. in. Cooking Area TANK EXTRA

FREE DELIVERY & COVER

ALL MODELS ON SALE

\$597⁹⁷

reg. \$750.00
20 lb. LP, BBQ Tank, Fill
Unit 1 exp. 5/2/94

25% OFF

All MHP Universal BBQ Parts
Bring in your model # and to old post Unit 1 exp. 5/2/94

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 10AM-8PM **OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.**

SATURDAY 10AM-7PM **SUNDAY NOON-5PM** **THIS SALE ENDS 5/2/94**

TO ORDER BY PHONE CALL 1-800-987-9888

SOUTHFIELD	Southfield Rd. at 12 Mile Rd.	557-3344
NOVI	Novi Rd. at 10 Mile Rd.	348-9300
STERLING HTS.	Van Dyke at 16 Mile Rd.	268-8222