

CHB SPOTLIGHT



COLORADO HOME BUILDERS —
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HOW TO DO A SPRING CHECKUP

Maintenance around your home is an ongoing thing--and it seems like there's always something you could be doing. Keep in mind, though, there are two kinds of maintenance: reactive maintenance (where you are fixing something that has broken) and preventative maintenance (where you are making sure things are working properly before they break).

Preventative maintenance is easier and less expensive than reactive maintenance--so here are some ideas on preventative maintenance you can do around your home in the spring.

How to Do a Spring Check on the Outside

- ◆ Walk around the outside of your home and check the foundation walls for any signs of cracking, pieces falling off or heaving.
- ◆ Look at your siding, bricks or stucco. Are there any signs of an opening that will allow moisture to get into the walls or bricks that might be chipping from water and ice penetration? Use silicone to repair vinyl siding openings, stucco patch for any cracks in stucco and water sealer to prevent water from getting into the bricks through cracks.
- ◆ Check your roof for any curled, loose, damaged or missing shingles. If you notice any, either repair them yourself or get them replaced professionally. A small repair costs much less than a replacement roof.
- ◆ Clean and inspect your gutters. They should be firmly attached and the downspouts should be directing water well away from your foundation. If the gutters are loose it's a relatively easy job to reattach them, before they fall off completely.
- ◆ Remember to check your driveway. Cracks often appear in the spring after winter's ice and cold and repairing small cracks in an asphalt, or even a concrete driveway, is a relatively easy DIY job.
- ◆ Consider how well your wooden stairways made it through the winter. If any boards have cracked or are rotten they need to be replaced.

How to Do a Spring Check on the Inside

- ◆ Go up into your attic and look for any signs on the inside of water penetration, things like wet spots or damp insulation. Also look for any damage soffits or blocked vents that could prevent good air circulation through your attic.
- ◆ Replace the batteries in your smoke detectors (if you didn't do it when the time changed) and check to see that your carbon monoxide detector is working.
- ◆ Vacuum and clean around your furnace and change the furnace filter.
- ◆ Check that your sump pump is in good working condition and functioning properly. Spring (and the associated runoff water) is definitely when you want your sump pump to be working.

Tips & Warnings

Figuring out what needs to be done around a home and taking care of the jobs while they are small can save you a lot of money in the long-run. Most major home repairs start as minor fixes that were ignored. Build yourself a checklist of jobs that need to be done and prioritize the list; you don't need to do everything in one weekend.

If possible, start a home maintenance fund (even as little as \$50 a month) will help ensure you have the necessary money to do your home fixups.

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REMEMBER: WE DO HOME INSPECTIONS!
See page 4 of this issue for contact info!

HOW TO...

How to Repair Chipped Glazed Floor Tile

Floor tiles generally are covered with a protective glaze that repels stains and moisture. When you see a crack or chip in the tile, you'll need to not only fill in the damaged area, but also reseal the glaze, so it looks consistent with the surrounding floor and is protected from moisture. Epoxy glue is an excellent filler for chipped tiles, as it dries rock-hard and can be painted to the color of the tile. Floor-grade polyurethane gloss will keep the paint from coming up.

Things You'll Need:

- Epoxy glue
- Toothpicks
- Extra-fine sandpaper
- Paint (same color as the tile)
- Small paintbrush
- Polyurethane floor gloss



Instructions:

- ◆ Open the epoxy glue. If the glue come in two separate tubes that have to be mixed, mix them according to the instructions on the packaging.
- ◆ Put a dab of the epoxy over the chipped area. Use the end of a toothpick to work it down into the fissure and smooth it along the top, so it's flat. Let the glue dry overnight.
- ◆ Buff the dried epoxy very gently with extra-fine sandpaper, getting it completely smooth. Wipe away the dust.
- ◆ Paint over the epoxy with paint the same color as the tile, using a small paintbrush. Apply the paint only over the dried glue, not the surrounding tile. Let the paint dry for eight hours.
- ◆ Brush a thin layer of polyurethane gloss onto the painted area. Let it dry to the touch. Lightly buff the polyurethane with extra-fine sandpaper. Apply a second layer of polyurethane. Let it dry overnight.

McHUMOR.COM by T. McCracken



"Take him back to work.
He can still hold a hammer."

McHUMOR.COM by T. McCracken



"I have a low flow toilet ... but not by design."



"We are all inventors, each sailing out on a voyage of discovery, guided each by a private chart, of which there is no duplicate. The world is all gates, all opportunities.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson~

How to Repair Gaps in Hardwood Floor

Old hardwood flooring can develop gaps between the boards over time. Resist the urge to just fill those gaps with wood putty, which will crack and crumble as the floor expands and contracts with climate changes. One solution is to use hemp rope, which can be unwound to whatever thickness you need for each gap, then stained to the color of the floor and wedged into the gaps, where it will expand and contract with the floor.

Things You'll Need:

- Vacuum hose
- Thick hemp rope
- Razor knife
- Newspaper
- Rubber gloves
- Wood stain
- Small putty knife



Instructions:

- ◆ Clean out the gaps in the floor, using the vacuum hose to pull out any debris.
- ◆ Lay hemp rope next to each gap and cut it to length with a utility knife. For each gap, unwind the thick rope into thinner sections, making each one about 50 percent wider than the gap.
- ◆ Put on rubber gloves. Soak the rope lengths in a can of wood stain for a few seconds, then lay them out on newspapers and let them dry overnight.
- ◆ Set each length of rope on top of the appropriate gap. Wedge it into the gap with your putty knife, starting at one end and working to the other until the rope is completely filling the gap and level with the floor surface.

NumberBlock

| | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | | | 50 |
| 3 | 5 | 1 | 8 | | 3 | 1 | 27 |
| 9 | 7 | | 3 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 30 |
| 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 | | 6 | 28 |
| | 4 | 1 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 31 |
| 8 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | 23 |
| 3 | 8 | | | | 9 | 11 | 56 |
| | | 12 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 49 |
| 37 | 37 | 36 | 37 | 35 | 29 | 33 | 38 |



What's a numberblock you ask?

- ◆ A numberblock is group of numbers formed in a block.
- ◆ The missing numbers are integers between 0 and 12.
- ◆ The numbers in each row add up to the totals to the right.
- ◆ The numbers in each column add up to the totals along the bottom.
- ◆ The diagonal lines also add up the totals to the right.
- ◆ Some of the numbers are missing.
- ◆ You fill in the missing numbers



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TIP'S FROM THE PROFESSIONALS - STEVE'S HIGHLIGHTS

Homemade Liquid Wallpaper Remover

Wallpaper-removal liquids are sold commercially at most stores that sell wallpaper and other general home-improvement stores.

These removers often are harsh chemical products that work, but are not the most earth-friendly solution. A homemade product works just as well and uses natural materials that easily are diluted and washed away after the wallpaper is gone. The homemade option is easy to prepare and takes the same amount of time and effort to use.

Things You'll Need:

- Drop cloth •Wallpaper perforating tool •Distilled white vinegar •Bucket
- Spray bottle, paint roller or paintbrush •Nylon scraper •Sponge

INSTRUCTIONS:

- ♦ Lay a drop cloth over the floor beneath the wallpapered walls.
- ♦ Score the surface of the wallpaper with a wallpaper perforating tool. Roll the tool slowly up and down the wall, section by section, until the entire wall is prepared. By perforating the paper prior to starting, it allows the remover to soak through the glue and begin to break it down.
- ♦ Pour approximately eight ounces of distilled white vinegar and eight ounces of hot water in a bucket and stir until well blended. Apply the mixture to the wallpaper by using a spray bottle, brushing it on with a paint roller or brush, or wiping it on with a sponge. Generously coat the wallpaper and allow the remover to soak into the wallpaper and glue for 10 to 15 minutes.
- ♦ Use a nylon scraper to carefully begin scraping off the wallpaper and glue. Start with a small area and work outward in small sections until all of the wallpaper is removed.
- ♦ Use a clean sponge and wipe down the wall with fresh water. This helps dilute and remove the remaining vinegar on the wall. Remove the drop cloth and keep the room ventilated to remove the smell of vinegar that lingers for a short while.

Tips & Warnings:

If the wallpaper is not loose enough for scraping, apply another coat of vinegar solution and give it more time to cure. Don't press down too hard with the perforating tool or it may damage the drywall surface behind the paper. Wear rubber gloves when working with the vinegar solution to protect against prolonged contact with the skin. Consider wearing a face mask to reduce the harsh smell of the vinegar solution



All material contained within was compiled by the Colorado Home Builders team.