

## **Wayne Building and Zoning Department, Mike Gricus Spring / Summer Maintenance Tips For Your Home**

Protect your home and family from fire and other hazards. These simple and easy tasks will help provide for a safe home environment during the spring and summer months:

- Review your fire escape plan with your family. Always have a multi-purpose fire extinguisher accessible.
- Review what to do and where to go during severe weather. Determine the safest room in your home to go to during severe weather, typically a room with no windows interior to the home and on the lowest level.
- Check sump pumps for proper operation. Check the sump pit for any debris that could impede pump operation. To test, fill the pit using buckets of water to make sure the pump turns on and the system operates properly. Consider installing a battery back-up sump pump if power outages are frequent in your area.
- Check all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors for proper operation. Utilize the test buttons on the detectors to check that they operate. Replace batteries annually and clean dust from detectors. Detectors are to be installed per manufacturer's specifications and Village Code.
- Check the exterior of your home for damage or deterioration (roofing, siding, trim, windows and doors). Check for proper operation of window and door locks.
- Clean out gutters and downspouts. Failure to maintain gutters and downspouts lead to rain water backing up into your home.
- Have a professional air conditioning contractor inspect and maintain your system as recommended by the manufacturer. Replace or clean furnace filters. A dirty filter can decrease equipment efficiency, including air conditioning equipment operation.
- Check your water heater for any signs of leakage or rust. Flush if recommended by the manufacturer.
- All chimneys and flues (i.e. fireplace, water heater, furnace) need to be checked to verify that gases are properly venting. Have a qualified technician check all chimney and / or flue piping to insure there are no blockages (bird or insect nests).
- Clean the clothes dryer exhaust duct, damper and space under the dryer. Poor maintenance allows lint to build up in the exhaust duct and may cause a fire.
- Clean bathroom exhaust fan fixtures. Poor maintenance allows dirt and dust to build up on the exhaust fan motor, and light if it is a fan/light combination unit, and may cause a fire.
- Clean the kitchen exhaust hood and air filter. Keeping hood and filters clean of cooking grease will help keep a stovetop fire from spreading.
- Check water hoses on the clothes washer, refrigerator icemaker and dishwasher for cracks and bubbles. Replace hoses that show signs of leaking.
- Familiarize responsible family members with the location and operation of the main water supply valve for the home (usually at the water meter) and water supply valves at all plumbing fixtures. In case of a water pipe leak or break, or overflowing plumbing fixture, water can be turned off before flooding occurs.
- Test all ground-fault-circuit-interrupter (GFCI) receptacle outlets. These should be tripped and reset once a month using the test buttons on the face of the receptacle outlets. If they do not trip or reset, have the receptacle outlet changed by a qualified electrician. These types of receptacle outlets are required around wet areas like bathrooms, kitchens and the exterior of the home to provide for protection against shock or electrocution.
- Check all exterior electrical fixtures for bird and insect nests. Failure to remove nests from electrical fixtures may cause fire.
- If you have a swimming pool, insure safety fencing is secure and all gates are self closing and latching, with lock, to keep children and unauthorized individuals from the pool area. Check all equipment for proper operation and electrical safety.