



CLUB NEWS

THE VOICE OF HOMESERVICE CLUB™

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HOME CHECKLIST

Spring cleanup is just around the corner. You can get a head start this month by giving your home's exterior a thorough inspection. Make a list of minor repairs and take care of them before they lead to major expense.

✓ **Chimney** — have the flue cleaned and inspected.

✓ **Siding and trim** — Wash siding, touch up damaged paint and repair loose siding.

✓ **Eavestroughs** — Clean eavestroughs, repair cracks and splits and broken hangers. Make sure they are in good shape to handle heavy rains of spring.

✓ **Roofing** — Look for damaged shingles and loose flashing.

✓ **Windows** — Clean and inspect windows.

✓ **Attic** — Check in attic for signs of moisture damage and animal nests.

Heading South?

If you are planning a vacation, Homeservice Club™ suggests that you take these precautions before you leave home:

- Turn the thermostat down in the winter.
- Unplug all electrical cords.
- Arrange to have your mail picked up every day.
- Leave an itinerary, a phone number and a house key with a trusted neighbour.
- Take such security precautions as putting one or two lights and a radio on an automatic timer, have deadbolts installed, install bar-type locks on sliding glass



Before you pack your bags, take care of these details!

doors, and arrange for junk mail collection and snow removal.

- Defrost and unplug the fridge if you will be away for an extended period.
- Check your home insurance policy. Some have a clause that requires the premises to be checked every 48 hours in your absence for the policy to be valid.

HEED THESE WARNING SIGNS

Modern technology may be placing an enormous burden on your home's electrical system. Our Homeservice experts say that homeowners should heed these signs:

- Lights flicker when an appliance is turned on.
- Circuit breakers trip, or fuses blow repeatedly.

- Appliances are not operating at full power.
 - Major appliances are not on their own circuits.
- Any of these signs may indicate that your system is overburdened. Upgrading your electrical system to a higher amperage will help it carry the load of modern living.

COOL ways to create a HOT property

(WMS) With just a few weekend projects, you can create that all-important, good first impression when house-hunters pull up to your home.

An Inviting Setting

• **Paint your main entry door** a different colour. Use a contrasting color to those of the house and trim to draw the eye to the entry - and away from less attractive areas of the home, such as the garage and gutters. If your house is yellow with white trim, try a blue door. Accent a green exterior by adding a red door.

• **Redo those fading shutters.** Give your home an instant face-lift, without repainting the entire house. In one afternoon, you'll have a beautiful, high-gloss finish and a great new look.

• **Frame**



CLUB NEWS

DECKS

Protecting your investment

(WMS) - Make sure that you clean, restore and protect your deck so you can get the most out of it during the spring and summer months ahead. Here are some deck-prep tips from the experts at Wolman Wood Care products:

- **Clean** the deck thoroughly to remove embedded dirt, fungus stains and gray surface wood with a formulated deck cleaner.
- **Strip** any deteriorating or unwanted finish. If the coloured stain on your deck has seen better days — or if you want a different look — now is the time to strip your deck's finish.
- **Seal** with a protective

water-repellent finish. Water repellents stop spring showers from penetrating the wood surface, which can cause shrinking, warping and cracking.

Many water repellents also contain a mildewcide that will impede the growth of mildew on your deck during the warm months ahead. Look for products that will provide longer-lasting protection, so that you won't have to apply a new coat every year.

Preparing your deck for spring will protect your investment in it, and enhance the enjoyment of your outdoor living space.



FENCES

Designing the great divide

- When determining your fencing requirements, balance your need for privacy against keeping your property safe from break-ins. Keep the fence low enough so that neighbours and people on the street can spot suspicious activity.
- Fence posts should be firmly embedded in concrete.
- Gates should be equipped with a child-proof lock, especially if you have a backyard pool.
- The fencing material and design should be chosen to suit the function: i.e. wrought iron or chain link for security, or wood for privacy.
- Make sure you know where your lot line is before building.

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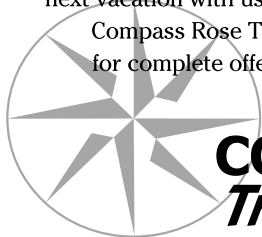
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COLOUR your HOME

While interior colours change with the seasons, exterior colours tend to remain constant, changing slowly over a period of eight to 10 years. Here are some trends in exterior colours from the experts at Benjamin Moore Paints:

- Colour selections have gone lighter. Most popular colours are light to medium in value. Gone are the heavy browns, earth tones and murky greens.
- Twenty years ago, "rustic" was the buzzword for colours and textures. Today, the colours are "weathered," the textures more subtle and refined.
- Regional colours and palettes are important. We now realize that exterior colours and textures should be compatible with their surroundings.
- Historical colours are more significant than ever for exteriors, because of their toned, grayed-off nature. The murky greens, golds and darker colours are less popular, and some surprising colours, such as rose and mauve, have been specified for exteriors.
- Most importantly, we have softer contrast in colour combinations. Twenty years ago, we featured light siding with darker trim, or vice versa. Today, we are using tones of one or similar colours with less value contrast.



CLUB NEWS

CREATING Resale Value

(Continued from Page 1)

the entry with attractive landscaping. For a quick fix, flank the doorway with two large planters brimming with inexpensive flowering plants.

Freshen the Interior

• **Redo or restore appliance exteriors.** Give them a durable, scrubbable finish with an appliance epoxy paint. They'll look like new again in 30 minutes.

• **Consider adding molding to the living room.** It will make any room look more expensive and it's easy to install.

Spray-paint it in an accent colour before installing, and you've just added dimension to the room.

• **Turn on the lights.** A bright house always shows best. Light scented candles in the bathroom and kitchen to further treat the senses.

• **Get rid of clutter.** The idea is to let potential buyers see your home as theirs, not yours, and to eliminate distractions.

With a minimal amount of effort, you can maintain your new "hot property" and keep both realtors and prospects interested.

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10% OFF

Expires March 31, 2002

Take time to vent...

A properly vented kitchen is not only easier to keep clean - it smells fresher! Here are some tips on venting:

- Check the exhaust openings outside for breaks or blockages.
- Periodically remove filters and clean with hot, soapy water.
- Oil and clean exhaust fans at least once a year.



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Tips for dealing with **Water Stains and Mildew**

(WMS) - It's bound to happen — a leaky roof, a burst pipe, melting snow, excessive bathroom moisture — all leading to one of the most common household problems — water stains on walls or ceilings.

Covering a water stain with a fresh coat of paint won't work. Most water stains will bleed right through ordinary paints. They can also create an ideal environment for the growth of mold and mildew.

Here's some advice, from the experts at Zinsser, to help you deal with water stains and mildew on painted surfaces:

- First, make sure that the surface is sound. Identify and fix the source of the moisture or leak, or you'll soon have another unsightly water stain.
- Clean the surface thoroughly to remove dirt and the unsightly deposits that can result from the

leak. Use a bleach-and-water solution to remove mildew. Rinse the surface thoroughly. (Note: To avoid creating high moisture conditions beneath the surface, avoid "flooding" the area with water, bleach or cleaning solutions.)

- Dry the surface thoroughly. Use a hair dryer to dry small areas. Larger areas may require the use of a dehumidifier, heater or fan to ensure that the surface is completely dry before priming.

- Prime the surface with a shellac-base primer-sealer to seal the stain and prevent it from bleeding through the topcoat. For small or hard-to-reach stains, convenient aerosol sprays are available.

- In high humidity areas,, such as bathrooms, repaint with a product that prevents future mildew growth on the paint film.

For more tips on water stains and mildew, visit www.zinsser.com.

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