

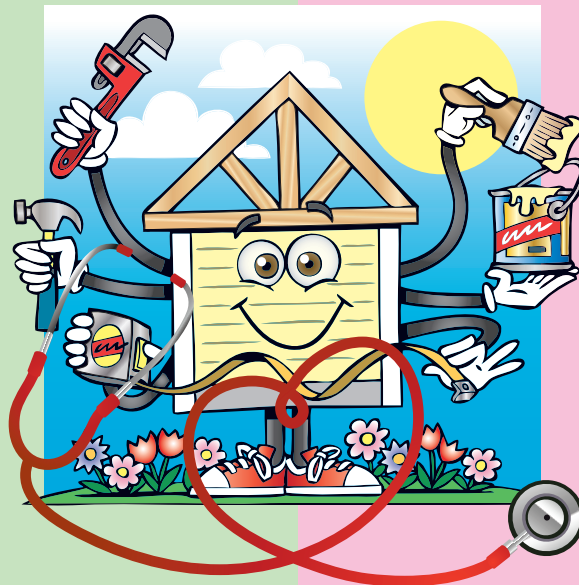
Spring Check Up!

BY KELLI WEGSCHEID

As a new homeowner you may have been overwhelmed with manuals and recommendations on how to maintain your new home, appliances and systems. Well, what happens as the life of your home comes up on say 20 years? What does that mean in the life of a home? As many homes that were built in the late 1980's and early 1990's fit this description what can we do to give new life to our aging home? Many materials and mechanical items may have a life span of only 20 years, dependent upon use. Take a look at the items that you can work on to spruce up your home during spring cleaning, I challenge you to pick a couple from each list and get the work done while we are still waiting for spring to find us – before you know it lake season will be here – then you can sit back & enjoy! Always incorporate the help of a professional contractor if you have questions.

Exterior

- Check shingles, replace any that are missing
- Add gutters over high traffic areas or decks
- Paint or replace front entry door.
Add a glass storm/screen door.
- Stain decks and repair railings & stairs.
- Clean and fix screens
- Remove dead landscaping, add vegetables or herbs to your flower beds
- Trim overgrown shrubs or any trees, especially any touching the house or roof
- Steam clean, scrub or lightly bleach patio furniture
- Wash windows to let in that fabulous sunshine! Repaint any wood trim in disrepair
- Restain wood siding, repair woodpecker holes
- Make sure attic vents are not clogged with leaves, acorns or other debris
- Have septic system checked or emptied
- Repair sprinkler system
- Reseal asphalt drive
- Install a clothes line – remember those things?
- Clean the grill before the big Memorial Day Weekend crowd arrives – check the propane!



Interior

- Paint! The most cost effective way to brighten up a dated or worn out room is paint!
- Remove dated wall paper & Repair any drywall damage
- Remove popcorn ceiling finish by wetting with spray and scraping
 - Consider new flooring or rugs
 - Replace dated light fixtures with new energy efficient models
 - Update interior doors from hollow core to solid core and/or add new hardware
 - Replace any leaking plumbing fixtures, washing machine lines or refrigerator water lines
 - Consider adding higher, accessible toilets with dual flush controls
 - Restain or refinish existing cabinetry, add new hardware
 - Add or replace bathroom fans that have worn out
 - Fix winter drywall cracks with caulking and paint
 - Change ceiling fan directions for cooling
 - Tune up or replace failing air conditioning units
- Check for any basement water leakage or seepage with the spring thaw
- Add a sealed sump pump lid in accordance with new radon codes
- Clean out closets and the garage to acquire new found space!
- Unclog or clean garage drains
- Set a budget for replacement of old appliances and/or heating systems. Many energy efficient rebates are out there to help offset costs