



Routine Home Maintenance

Your home may be the biggest investment you will ever make. An experienced home owner knows the importance of a good home maintenance checklist. This will help you stay on top of tasks like replacing air filters, testing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and checking the water heater for leaks.

By taking care of these maintenance tasks, you'll keep your family safe, save money on repairs down the road and extend the life of your house. Taking good care of it with regular maintenance is necessary to preserve its value and ensure it will provide a comfortable, safe shelter for you and your family for years to come.

Indoor Home Maintenance Checklist

Air Filters

- Many types of heating and air conditioning systems (HVAC systems) contain filters to remove dirt and dust from the air. Check the instruction book or search online by model number: In many cases, the home owner should change air filters of the air conditioning system at least once every three months.

Sinks

- It's a good idea to clean your faucet's aerator — which is the spring inside the end of the faucet — every three to four months.
- To maintain your garbage disposal, you should run cold water through it during use.

Fireplaces

- When you're ready to use your fireplace, be sure to build the fire on the andirons or grate, never on the fireplace floor. Always store your firewood outside and away from the house.
- Have a CSIA-Certified chimney sweep inspect your chimney and fireplace annually, especially if you build a lot of fires in the winter.

Floors

- To maintain unpainted concrete floors in your basement or garage, first apply a concrete sealer, which makes them easier to clean. When you're ready to clean them, use a solution of four to six tablespoons of washing soda in a gallon of hot water. Add scouring powder to the solution for tough jobs.
- For hardwood, be sure the floors have a polyurethane finish before cleaning with water. Hardwood floors that do not have a polyurethane finish will need to be waxed periodically. Use liquid or paste "spirit" wax. The best polish for vinyl floors is water emulsion wax.

Learn More

Explore additional home maintenance tips at nahb.org/consumers.

