



Insurance Tips

Spring-clean for a safer home

Winter can be tough on your home. There's no better time than spring to spruce things up—and make it a safer place in the process. Small repairs now can save you time and money down the road, as well as help you avoid unnecessary headaches.

Here's a checklist to help you during your cleaning spree:

- **Inspect your roof.** Look for damaged shingles or tiles, and have them replaced. Don't miss the base of the chimney. Repair any cracks to prevent water damage from leaks.
- **Trim your trees.** Prune tree limbs regularly to keep them away from your home, decks and outbuildings in case strong winds or precipitation cause them to break. If a tree is too close to your home, consider having it removed.
- **Clean out your gutters.** Remove leaves, sticks and other debris so spring showers can flow freely. Make sure gutters are secure and downspouts drain away from your foundation. If possible, extend the bottom of the downspout away from your home by at least six feet.
- **Test wood for water damage.** Make sure wood on your home is not soft when you press it. It isn't just exposed wood that is at risk. Even vinyl- or aluminum-sided homes have wooden framing and trim. Repair or replace soft wood as needed.
- **Check for appliance leaks.** Look for signs of leakage around your washing machine, dishwasher, refrigerator, water heater and other appliances that use water. Consider installing water sensors near appliances and in areas that could leak or flood. They can alert you, through an alarm or mobile app, when water touches them. Even small leaks can lead to major damage.
- **Clean your dryer vent.** Nearly 3,000 home dryer fires happen every year according to the U.S. Fire Administration, causing \$35 million in property loss annually. Cleaning dryer vents could prevent about a third of those fires. Make sure to clean your lint trap after every use.

For more information, talk to a AAA Insurance agent or visit your local branch office.

These tips are provided by the Marketing team at CSAA Insurance Group, a AAA insurer.