



HOME Rochester and Make Monroe Home Homeowners

Spring 2022 Newsletter and Spring Maintenance Checklist

- **Exterior home inspection-** Take a walk-around the outside of your property after months of winter weather. Winter can be tough on roofs, windows, walls, foundations, and gutters. Take note of what needs repair.
- **Gutter clean out-** Thoroughly clean out any debris from gutters. Repair sagging or loose gutters. Check joints and seams for leaks. Make sure that downspouts are clear and are pointed away from the house to avoid water near your foundation.
- **Roof-** Check for inconsistencies on your roof including cracked or missing shingles, nail-pops, or soft spots.
- **Lawn clean up-** Check your property for loose branches or limbs. Maintain your lawn and rake to get rid of dead grass to encourage new growth. Prune branches away from your home.
- **Windows, caulking, leaks-** To prepare for spring weather, check for cracked or broken windows. Check window seals: a tight seal is the first line of defense against air and water. Clean windows and screens. Fix or replace worn screens to prevent bugs from entering your home. Clean tracks and door frames with a soft cloth.
- **Furnace -** Change your air furnace filter. As a general rule, replace pleated air filters and furnace filters in your home every 90 days. The longer the filter is in place, the more dirt, dust, and allergens are trapped clogging the filter and decreasing its efficiency & making the furnace work harder.
- **Basement-** Keep a dehumidifier running if you have moisture or humidity in your basement. (This can be identified by a musty smell.) Humidity levels in a home should be between 30-60%. Dehumidifiers need to be emptied regularly as water collects in their storage tank.
- **Sump Pump-** Do a check of your sump pump for proper function.
- **Attic-** Check your attic for proper ventilation. Proper ventilation helps reduce excess heat and moisture. Look for evidence of animal entry (droppings, nesting materials) that may have occurred during the fall and winter. Locate and block entry points if possible.
- **Dryer vent and house fans-** Clean out your lint trap each time you use the dryer. Unplug your dryer and clean your dryer vent and hose monthly, which is found at the back of the dryer. Check for proper functioning of your kitchen exhaust and bathroom fans and clean filters. Exhaust fans rid the room air of excess moisture, humidity, odors, and pollutants.
- **Leaks in/out-faucets-** Check under the kitchen and bathroom sinks to make sure pipes and hoses are properly sealed. Look for wetness around the dishwasher. Check your washing machine hoses for cracks, bulges, or dampness. Also check hot water heaters for signs of corrosion and leaks. Turn on outside water and check exterior spigots for leakage.
- **Clean your oven and stove top-** Regularly clean your stove top and oven to remove excess grease and food particles.
- **Home Security-** You may want to consider a home security system. In-home security systems protect your valuables, deter crime, can lower your homeowner's insurance, as well as provide peace of mind.
- **Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Alarms-** Replace batteries in your smoke detectors and check for proper functioning of Carbon Monoxide alarms. Have a working fire extinguisher accessible and inform house occupants of its location. The Rochester Fire Department will visit any city home to ensure smoke or carbon monoxide alarms are correctly installed and in working order. For more information, visit: <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/care/ccs/>

You may want to enlist a professional to assist with some of these tasks.

Our mission is to send out tips for seasonal home maintenance to assist you with successful homeownership.

Please respond to this e-mail if you choose to opt out of further newsletter communication.

Content is available in Spanish upon request.

What's happening around our City?

City of Rochester Clean Sweep is back! - Sat. May 7, 8am-12pm at Frontier Field

Clean Sweep is community in action!

- Reconnect with old friends and make new ones.
- Do some team-building with your neighborhood association, church group, school group, club, team, family or civic organization.
- Get volunteer credit (ex: for Participation in Government class).
- Residents can take advantage of Clean Sweep, too. Place yard debris at the curb and a City crew will soon come by to retrieve it.
- City crews remove graffiti, clean City properties, repair sidewalks and fill potholes during the event.

<https://www.cityofrochester.gov/cleansweep/>

Keep Rochester Beautiful

Keep Rochester Beautiful seeks to end littering, increase the recycling rate and restore as well as maintain public spaces in Rochester.

<https://www.cityofrochester.gov/KRB/>

Spring Gardening course

Spring gardening includes tasks that must be accomplished before planting begins as well as the joys of gardening after the ground has warmed up enough for planting. Preparing garden beds, pruning, and getting equipment ready for use before planting can begin will be discussed. Participants will also learn the basics of plant care, starting seeds indoors, lawn care, fertilization and choosing the right plant for the right place.

Registration is requested. Free.

Presented by Master Gardener Bonnie Knoke

Hosted by Tinker Nature Park

<http://monroe.cce.cornell.edu/events/2022/04/30/spring-gardening>

Recycle!

An innovative partnership between Monroe County and [Waste Management](#) to provide a "one stop drop off" for residential recycling.

<https://www2.monroecounty.gov/ecopark/>

Pathways to Peace

Pathways to Peace helps youth and families by collaborating with community resources including schools, employers, health professionals, law enforcement agencies and other service providers. Pathways staff strive to establish relationships and build a genuine rapport with at risk youth so that they can tailor a customized network of resources that match their needs. Pathways also provides presentations designed to prevent violence from being considered as a current or future option for youth in all age groups and interested community organizations. Pathways to Peace provides outreach to youth in all neighborhoods of the city.

<https://www.cityofrochester.gov/pathwaystopeace/>