

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Quick Fixes To Prevent Future Headaches

(NAPSA)—Seasonal changes require special maintenance to keep your home in good condition. So, although there may still be many sunny days ahead, you'll be happy that you got a jump-start on your home maintenance projects now once the cold winds start rushing in.

In order to prepare your home for rough weather, there are several simple do-it-yourself projects that can result in substantial savings in the long run. Here is a checklist of projects to keep in mind when you do an inspection of your home:

Roof

Many times homeowners don't notice a roof leak until it is too late. Be sure to inspect your roof at least once a year to check for signs of damage or aging. Pay close attention to flashing around chimneys or skylights and check for any loose shingles. A roof and flashing sealant, such as PL Polyurethane Roof and Flashing Sealant (www.stickwithPL.com) can easily be used to seal the flashing gaps or to reattach loose shingles. The polyurethane formula will create a waterproof and weatherproof seal once cured.

Doors

Caulking is the perfect solution for small window air leaks, but it won't work for large drafts between the door and door frame. For these pesky leaks, weather stripping is the answer. Fall is the perfect time for installation, since the adhesive on most weather-stripping products will not stick properly once the temperature falls below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. When choosing the appropriate product, no single type of weather stripping works for every application. Be sure to read packaging closely. Many brands market a variety of weather-stripping seals to provide a specialized product for nearly any application.

Gutters

Clogged gutters can create a variety of problems such as leaking basements, leaking roofs or rotting wood. To avoid costly home repairs, you need to clean gutters twice a year to remove all leaves and



Acrylic caulks such as Poly-seamseal brand, provide a durable seal that is low-odor and easy to clean up.

debris. To avoid this yearly hassle, consider gutter shields, such as the PermaFlow Gutter Guard System (www.permaflow.com). It can eliminate gutter clogging and debris buildup while maintaining water flow, even in extreme downpour conditions. This easy-to-use system clips to the edge of your gutter and slides under your shingles for easy installation.

Windows

Small air leaks around windows not only allow energy to escape from the house, but also can cause damage to your insulation from dampness. Luckily, caulking around windows can tackle this temperature and water problem easily. To start, be sure that the surface is clean and dry. Easy-to-use, acrylic caulks, such as Poly-seamseal Outdoor Window, Door & Siding Adhesive Caulk (www.poly-seamseal.com) are a great choice since they provide a durable weather-resistant, flexible seal with low odor and easy water clean up.

Furnace

Servicing your furnace annually is the best way to ensure you'll be warm and cozy on those cold winter nights. In addition, dirty air filters in heating units restrict airflow and can cause your system to run longer, increasing energy use. Replace your air filters monthly for maximum benefit. In addition to energy savings, air filters also reduce dust, pollen and lint in the air.