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## Home Maintenance Tips for Spring

Now that many of us are spending a little more time around the house than previously anticipated, why not take the time to ensure your home hasn't sustained any damage over the long, cold winter months?

The Personal, our home, auto and business group insurer, has prepared a few tips on how to have a pleasant and trouble-free summer.

- Gutters and downspouts may be clogged with debris or dead leaves that prevent adequate drainage. It is therefore important to clean them to ensure they are not blocked, do not leak and are firmly attached to your home. Poorly evacuated rainwater could seep into your basement or crawlspace. Make sure water can drain away from the foundation and not accumulate near it.
- Compacted soil in the lower part of your yard could lead to flooding when it rains, and puddles of stagnant water can become the breeding ground for insects. To quickly solve the problem, rent a lawn aerator. A more economical, sustainable and effective solution for relatively small spaces involves simply placing a few earthworms on your lawn. Their burrowing through the earth will naturally aerate the soil.
- Inspect your roof without climbing up onto it to see if any shingles are missing or have been damaged during the winter. Cracked, deformed or loose shingles need to be replaced. If you must climb onto the roof to make repairs, be sure to use a safety harness. If you are not comfortable doing this work yourself, call a specialized contractor. Given how complex certain roof repairs can be, it may be better to let a professional handle them.
- Check the concrete of your foundation for cracks or signs of shifting. Repair small cracks first with slot mouth or silicone caulk. When weather conditions are more favourable, clean the crack with a pressure washer and seal it with concrete. Doing this work every spring can help you avoid costly repairs. In case of major cracks, it may be best to consult a professional.
- Inspect your window frames to save a small fortune in air conditioning. Extreme temperature changes may cause gaps and leaks; these may then let warm air into your home during a heat wave. Plug them with a silicone sealant to stay cool all summer long!

Before you rush out to your yard to enjoy the warm spring sunshine, you should first see to the basic maintenance of your home! Doing so will allow you to have peace of mind this summer!

For more helpful prevention tips, visit [thepersonal.com/blog](https://thepersonal.com/blog) today.



The Personal refers to The Personal General Insurance Inc.

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