

Moisture Intrusion & Water Damage

Information for Home Owners



A new home is a large investment, worthy of proper maintenance. Help protect your property with this regular care and service schedule to ensure long term livability and functionality of your new home.

What is moisture intrusion and water damage? “Moisture intrusion” means water – whether liquid, frozen, condensed or vaporized – that penetrates into your home. “Water damage” means damage or harm caused by moisture intrusion that reduces the value or usefulness of your home.

How does moisture intrusion and water damage occur? Some causes of moisture intrusion and water damage are:

- Missing or loose roofing materials or flashing
- Window sills or door frames without adequate caulking or weather-stripping
- Lack of caulking in siding, mortar in masonry, or grout in exterior ceramic tile installations
- Degraded paint on exterior siding or surfaces
- Overflowing or clogged gutters
- Gutter drains or downspouts that are not a sufficient distance from the structure
- Improper drainage slope next to foundation
- Plant materials too close to the structure or foundation
- Sprinklers that overspray onto the structure or foundation
- Non-working interior ventilation systems

How can you tell if your home has water damage? Signs of water damage may include dampness, staining, mildew (blackened surfaces with a musty smell), or softness in wood (a possible sign of dry rot).

What to do if you see signs of water damage: If water damage is discovered, you should investigate its source. Take steps to repair or replace any building parts or materials that allowed the moisture intrusion. You may need to take additional steps, depending on the extent of the water damage.

If you have specific questions about maintaining your new home, ask your contractor. If you need professional assistance in conducting a maintenance inspection, you may wish to contact your contractor or a licensed home inspection business.



Recommended Maintenance Schedule For Homeowners

MAINTENANCE ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF MAINTENANCE	HOW OFTEN	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
Caulking/Weather Stripping	Check and repair missing, cracked, or peeling caulking or weather-stripping around window sills, door frames, and in siding gaps.	At Least Twice Yearly				
Debris Removal	Inspect gutters for debris blockage. Remove debris (for example, tree needles and leaves) from downspouts and gutters.	At Least Twice Yearly				
Foundation & Crawl Space	Check soil around foundation to make sure that it slopes in such a way that water can flow away from the foundation. Check the crawl spaces to ensure there is no standing water anywhere.	At Least Twice Yearly				
Gutters & Downspouts	Inspect gutters and downspouts for leaks. Repair if necessary. Check alignment of gutters, downspouts, and splash blocks to ensure that water is properly diverted away from the structure and foundation. Repair if necessary.	At Least Twice Yearly				
Landscaping Sprinklers	Check landscaping sprinklers to make sure that they are not set so that they will soak siding or form puddles near the foundation. Adjust if necessary.	At Least Twice Yearly				
Mortar	Check and repair missing mortar in exterior masonry.	Yearly				
Paint	Check painted surfaces for cracking, peeling, or fading. Repaint if necessary.	Yearly				
Roof	Check roof for damaged, loose, or missing shingles. Check flashing around roof stacks, vents, skylights, and chimneys and in roof valleys for missing or loose flashing. Repair or replace if necessary.	At Least Twice Yearly				
Trees & Shrubs	Trim back tree branches, shrubs, and other plants to make sure they are not in contact with the structure.	Yearly				
Ventilation Systems	Check to make sure that interior mechanical ventilation systems (such as bathroom, kitchen, and utility room vent fans) are in good working order. Repair if necessary.	Monthly				
Water Stains	Check for water stains in the roof of the attic and in the exterior overhangs or soffits. If water stains are present, locate and repair the cause of moisture intrusion.	Every 2-Months				