



Home Maintenance Concepts

3112 West Summit Ave.
Downingtown PA 19335-2000
Call us today at 610.733.9045
or contact us via e-mail at
ed@myhmcpro.com

We take the stress out of home repairs!

Homeowners Maintenance Newsletter

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Our Service Partners

A.C. Electric Alan Clay
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TIP: Spring and the summer months are a great time for a health check for your home's exterior.

Rain Barrels



As an old world practice not for conservation but practicality rain barrels have proven to be a necessity. As a gardener watering your flowers or vegetables, fresh rain water is better than water from your lawn faucet and it can save you money. It is a natural way to recycle instead of letting rain water run off into your local storm drain. You can even wash off your hands after a tough day of planting or wash off your tools and empty planting containers. After only two rain events totaling about 1 ¼" of total rain fall we were able to save 85 gallons of fresh rain water. Our rain barrel has a tight fitting lid preventing unwelcome visitors or insects. By not using treated tap water which by the time you use it the water has minimal benefit to your plants you have saved money on your water bill. The rain barrel pictured in this article costs around \$100 and is available at your local garden centers and hardware stores.

Protect Yourself

While you are gardening, cutting your lawn or inspecting your home, protect yourself from skin cancer. The best way to avoid skin cancer is to protect your skin when you are outdoors. A sunscreen of at least SPF 15 that gives protection against both the UVA and UVB rays is a good first start. A brimmed hat and limited exposure to the sun between 10 AM and 2 PM is a good practice. A shot glass of product is the suggested application with re-application occurring every 90 minutes. Be sure to apply to the neck, ears and even the tops of your feet, some areas that are often overlooked.

Some of our satisfied homeowners!

"Honest, neat, professional, trustworthy - you have our vote!!!!"
-Jeannie & Jeff

"Good Communication, great workmanship."
-Barry, West Chester

"I always call HMC first to see if they do what I need. High quality workmanship, integrity, neatness. The best!"
-Joy W., Malvern

Higher Vision Coaching and Consulting

610-340-0909

C: 610-724.2138

www.highervisioncoaching.biz

jkofsky@highervisioncoaching.biz

Eileen Scardina

Mary Kay Cosmetics

610-725-0695

www.marykay.com/escardina

EKSPA@aol.com

[Contact Us](#)

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610.733.9045 PA015775

Our Service Team

Ed Popchock

Clark Shultz

Joe Paterson

Ricardo Lopez

Spring & Summer Maintenance Check List

There are many web sites available to the consumer to help you maintain your single largest investment your home. The National Center for Healthy Housing has available a checklist to aid the homeowner in inspecting their home. I have listed the web site below. http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=DOC_12334.pdf

_____ Keeping your gutters clean in the spring and summer months can help prevent water damage to the interior of your home. Clean and check your downspouts & gutters. The soil next to the foundation of your home can become saturated with water and place a great deal of pressure on the foundation wall. This can lead to water penetration into the basement of your most valuable investment. To mitigate this risk, rainfall needs to be directed 10 feet away from the foundation. This can be accomplished with a combination of a good positive slope on the grade around your home and a downspout extension that gets the water 5-6 feet away from the foundation. A little time and effort before the rain starts can prevent a very expensive set of problems later.



_____ Mildew on your siding or black specs area is a sign that the exterior of your home may need cleaning. HMC uses a detergent/bleach solution to clean these ugly spots from the exterior of your home. There are several do it yourself products available to help clean your home's exterior and are available at your hardware store.

_____ Do you have ceiling stains in your bathroom or powder room areas? This may be a sign of a leaking vent collar. These collars are made of rubber and will deteriorate over time and begin to leak leaving an ugly stain on your ceiling leading to potential drywall damage.

_____ If you have wood windows or wood trim around your windows this should be checked for peeling or loose paint, spongy wood or caulking that needs to be removed and re-caulked. Paint/caulk in good condition along with sound wood will prevent water infiltration and further damage.

Getting Things Done

Are you spending more time trying to manage the urgent things in your life rather than doing the things that are really important and never seem to get done? In a mere 24-hour day, you are expected to be 24 different things to 24 different people! You get bogged down with things that 'pop up' throughout your day. By the time the day is over, your "to do" list is nowhere closer to being done.

Whether it is keeping up with maintaining your home before you have to deal with real damage or moving your business or career forward by focusing on those things which will return the greatest long term benefit, time and task management is one of the most important keys to personal and professional effectiveness. Steve Covey, Brian Tracy and David Allen are three of the most well known gurus of time management.

I'd like to offer a golden nugget from Brian Tracy's book, *Eat That Frog*, because it has served me and my clients well in getting the right things done at the right time. "If you have to eat two frogs, eat the ugliest one first." If you follow this consistently, you'll be surprised how far this simple rule will get you,

Jeff Kofsky, Higher Vision Coaching and Consulting