

Monthly Tips

February 2009

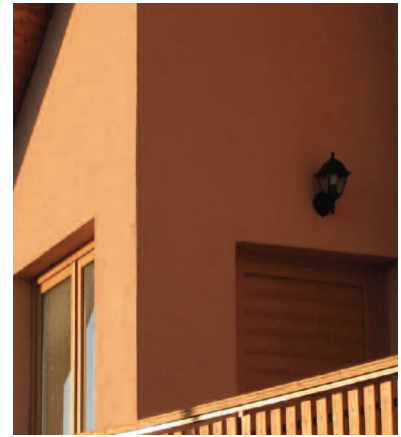


...ANSWERS...HOME MAINTENANCE QUIZ

1. At least every three months during the heating season.
2. The washer.
3. Cold water.
4. Every three months.
5. A plunger and a plumber's snake.
6. Coil spring-steel auger.
7. Aerator—the screen inside the end of the faucet.
8. Cat litter or sand—never use salt because it damages the pavement.
9. On the andirons or grate, never on the fireplace floor.
10. Throw in a handful of salt.
11. Outside, away from your house and not directly on the ground.
12. Concrete sealer.
13. A solution of 4 to 6 tablespoons of washing soda in a gallon of hot water. Mix scouring powder to the solution for tough jobs.
14. When the floors have a polyurethane finish.
15. Hardwood floors that do not have a polyurethane finish probably will need to be waxed periodically. Use liquid or paste "spirit" wax.
16. Water emulsion wax.
17. In new homes because gallons of water went into the concrete of basement walls.
18. The condition that causes noisy pipes may be accompanied by vibration that can cause fittings to loosen and leak.
19. Frozen pipes should be thawed slowly to prevent

the formation of steam, which could cause the pipe to burst.

20. A qualified roofer should inspect your roof every three years.
21. The alarms and circuit breakers should be checked to make sure they are in working order and the sensors should be inspected one by one.
22. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
23. Spackling.
24. Efflorescence sometimes appears on masonry walls. It is crystallized soluble salts that can be removed by scrubbing with water and a stiff brush.



25. 120 degrees Fahrenheit
26. Skylights should be inspected each time your roof is inspected so leaks don't develop from cracks and interruptions around its seals, caulking and flashings.
27. A solution of equal parts vinegar and water or 3 tablespoons of denatured alcohol per quart of warm water. Use a piece of crumpled newspaper to wash the glass to avoid lint left behind by paper towels.
28. Rub the channel with a piece of paraffin.
29. Determine if wood-sided homes need to be repainted; check to see if the caulking around the windows and doors has split and cracked, and replace the caulk; clean the mildew; trim shrubbery away so it does not touch the siding.

Source: National Association of Home Builders. For further information about this organization, please visit www.nahb.org.