

March Maintenance Checklist

If you haven't made a plan for your spring cleaning and fix-up projects already, now's your chance. Winter's almost over.

March Sales

Spring clothing and accessories
Winter sports equipment
Gardening equipment, mowers, and supplies
Luggage and travel accessories
Frozen food

Travel Kit

Check luggage and tags. Make sure you have a way to secure bags once airport security has gone through them.

Also include:

- **Address book**
- **Travel journal**
- **Pens**
- **Stamps**
- **Batteries**
- **Money belt**
- **Passport/ID**
- **Packing list**
- **Itinerary with phone numbers**

Prepare for vacation.

- Schedule time off.
- Make reservations and schedule flights for summer months.
- Depending on region, do spring yard clean up.
- Edge beds.
- Top dress and reseed lawns. Mow when grass gets to be 4" high. Don't mow it too short.
- Fertilize almost everything.
- Time to start transplanting cool season veggies to garden.
- Build arbors and trellises before transplanting or sowing seeds for vines and gourds.
- Cut back herbs.
- Organize your paper life.
- Root out and recycle old magazines, newspapers, and assorted mementos.
- Build a new file system or clear out old files that are past being useful.

Prepare taxes or have them done, if you haven't already. File electronically this year. If you owe, write the check and prepare to mail...on April 15 and not a minute sooner.

As spring starts, check your basement for cracks or leaks. If you see moisture, call a professional to check it out. Many homeowner's insurance policies no longer cover fungus or mildew damage, so sealing basements is more important than ever, if it's old, stained, or just ratty.