

Monthly Maintenance Checklist

If you follow a monthly plan, it will be much easier to manage the home's maintenance and require you to do less work on a seasonal or annual basis.

- **Unclog tub and sink drains**
Flush out the drains with a homemade or store-bought de-clogging solution. This may help you avoid major plumbing issues down the line.
- **Test the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors**
Replace any batteries if needed to make sure your home is safely equipped for any potential emergency.
- **Check your faucets for leaks**
Briefly inspect the areas around and under the sink faucets and any cabinets or vanities. Run the water for a few seconds to see if you notice any water leaking or dipping.
- **Clean out the garbage disposal**
If you have a garbage disposal in your kitchen sink, you can clean it out by grinding ice cubes, half of a lemon, hot water, and baking soda. This will clear out any build-up of smelly food in your pipes.
- **Clean the dishwasher filter**
If you have a dishwasher in your kitchen, remember to clean out the filter inside the washer (usually located on the bottom) to get rid of the build-up of food or grime. Keeping the dishwasher clean will extend the appliance's life and keep your dishes cleaner during each wash!
- **Replace the air conditioner filters**
If you have long-lasting filters, you may not need to do this monthly. Regardless, it is always a good idea to check the filters monthly to see any significant build-up of dust or dirt. If the filter looks dirty, you will want to change it to allow for more clean, cool air to circulate throughout the home. Having clean air filters may help improve energy efficiency and decrease your energy bill.
- **Clean your refrigerator coils**
People often overlook this step since it is not easy to notice the build-up of dirt and dust behind and under the fridge. The best way to clean the coils is to unplug your fridge, pull it out from the wall, and clean the back of the appliance and the floor where it was resting.