

Repair Prevention

What are some inexpensive ways to keep your home (and its contents) looking and operating like new? Some of the answers may seem obvious, but sometimes those are the solutions that are the easiest to forget.



One of the best ways to keep repairs to a minimum is by starting out with quality products. The old rule-of-thumb, which still holds true today, is to buy the best quality item you can afford. Even though it seems counter-intuitive, spending a little more money now can save a great deal more years down the road. A cheaply-built item that must be replaced costs many times more than those few dollars that were saved at purchase time.



Next, just like our parents said, treat your possessions with respect and they will look better and last longer. It's easy to neglect small repairs over time, but saving a few minutes now can cost big dollars later. For example, what about a leaking bathroom faucet? The noise and annoyance eventually fades into the background, but a leaking faucet wastes money, wastes a valuable natural resource, and may stain the sink on top of it.

What about chores like cleaning and waxing? They really do have a purpose. Cleaning spots from rugs and floors at the time they happen will keep flooring looking better and ensuring that stains don't become permanent. (Taking off shoes at the front door will help keep floors fresher, too).

And what can wax do? It provides a barrier of protection inside and out. Inside, wax seals pores on fine wood furniture, preventing water and dirt from penetrating to inner layers of the wood. In the same manner, wax can keep exterior metal from rusting. A little attention now can save time and money later.

A refrigerator needs regular attention. Cleaning the coils regularly plays a significant role in the efficient operation of a refrigerator. Unplug the appliance and use a vacuum or brush to clean the coils.

Inspect the furnace filter once a month. Always turn off the power at the main circuit breaker before removing the filter. If the filter is dirty, replace or clean it. Remember, taking care of the furnace filter and other appliances in your home saves you money in the long run, but more importantly, helps keep your family safe and healthy.

