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13 TOP TIPS FOR HOME MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY

- 1) Test your garage door monthly to ensure that it reverses when it hits an obstruction or when its sensor beam is interrupted.
- 2) Vacuum clothes dryer's exhaust duct at least once a year. If duct is plastic, replace this potential fire hazard. Rigid sheet metal ducting is best.
- 3) Replace furnace filters quarterly or as recommended by manufacturer.
- 4) Test all GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlets on a monthly basis. Press the test button and use a voltage tester to make sure the power goes off.
- 5) Clean leaves and debris from the condenser of a central air conditioner seasonally.
- 6) Once a year, vacuum the refrigerator coils underneath an appliance.
- 7) If used moderately or heavily, have a fireplace chimney cleaned and inspected annually.
- 8) Inspect window/door caulking and weather stripping annually
- 9) Replace the batteries in smoke detectors annually. Even hard wired units have a battery "back-up".
- 10) Obtain a roof inspection every 3 years.
- 11) Inspect broken hand railings or walkway cracks that could lead to a slip & fall injury.
- 12) Clean out gutters and downspouts seasonally.
- 13) Re-caulk showers, bathtubs, sinks and toilets to keep water out of walls and floors.

Courtesy of Popular Mechanics