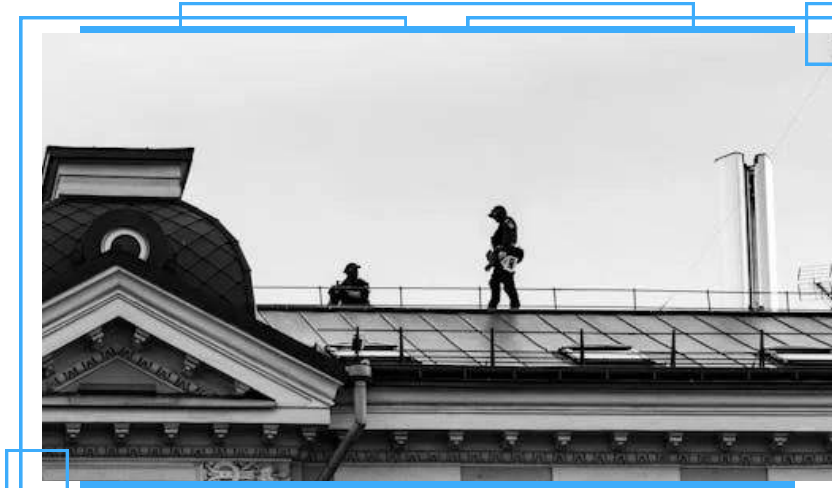


Seasonal Roof Care Tips

1. Inspect Roof, Gutters, and Attic

Look up. No, we aren't talking about admiring the changing leaves or the gently falling snow. Look at your roof and gutter system. Check for crooked or missing shingles, warped roof lines, sagging gutters, or anything that looks out of place. A visual inspection can catch problems early before they grow and become more involved and more expensive to fix.



2. Check Insulation

While you are in the attic looking for damage and pests, check your insulation. You are entering the season where you will be running your heating system. You don't want heated air to escape through your attic or roof. Insulation is the blanket that keeps your home comfortable and cozy.



3. Leave Attic Vents Open

Some homeowners see the vents in their attic and focus on warm air leaving through these openings. Thinking they are helping their home stay warm, they seal off the vents for the winter. Do not block or close off attic vents. Your home needs to breathe. These small openings allow your home to naturally "exhale" moist air.



4. Clean Gutters

When the morning air turns crisp and the trees turn yellow, piles of colored leaves soon follow. Those leaves fall into your gutters, causing blockages that affect the gutter system's ability to do its job. If the gutters can't properly carry water from your roof away from your home, you risk damage to your roof, foundation, and gutter system.



5. Inspect Chimney

Chestnuts roasting over an open fire will be hard to enjoy if your living room is full of smoke. Check your chimney before you use your fireplace. Start by looking up through the chimney to see if you find any blockages, damaged mortar, or other signs of a problem. From the roof, you'll want to ensure your chimney cap is undamaged and firmly secured.



6. Plan for Snow Removal

Snow build-up may make your home look like the image on the front of a holiday card, but the damage it can cause will send chills down your spine. In addition to ice dams, the weight of heavy snow can put more strain on your roof's support structure than it can handle. Research how to best remove snow from your roof.

