

HOME, LAWN & GARDEN

Dust the dust mites
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Weather-proof your
home
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Spring showers at Plumbing Warehouse

Avtar Braich of Plumbing Warehouse Bath and Kitchen Showroom demonstrates a rain shower head in one of his working models at his 5 Mountainview Road North location. In addition to having working showers and baths in the store, the display models also show the marble finishes available, as well as the custom glass enclosures.

Photo by Ted Brown

Spring renovation checklist

Improve your curb appeal

Ahhhh Spring! The word alone conjures up images of vitality, renewal and freshness. With old man winter put to bed, it's not unusual to find homeowners flocking to their local hardware store and hauling away supplies for their much anticipated home improvement projects.

There are many reasons for sprucing up your home this spring: perhaps you're thinking of selling; or need to accommodate a growing family; or simply to satisfy your desire for a more luxurious surrounding. Before you start giving your home a lift this spring, consider doing a walkthrough outside your home. The harsh elements brought on by winter will usually require

some kind of maintenance work for your home. To improve the curb appeal, you'll want to inspect the following:

- Windows: Prevent bugs from coming in by repairing and cleaning screens; and if windows are made of wood, repaint as necessary.
- Fences and decks: Check to see if posts, stringers, deck boards, railings, and stairs are still firmly set in place. These should not feel wobbly. Replace loose nails with weather resistant screws. Examine if a fresh coat of finish or paint is required.
- Trees and gutters: Leaves can cause mildew and clog gutters. To prevent this from

happening, look out for overhanging branches. Ensure gutters and downspouts are firmly secured and draining away from your home.

• Drainage and foundation: Examine the lay of your yard and look for signs of pooling such as water stains on the concrete or sidings of your home. Check the foundation for cracking. This can cause leakage in your basement or crawl space. Larger cracks may be a sign of serious damage indicating movement of your home.

Remember it's always a good idea to consult with a reputable contractor especially for major home renovation projects.

—News Canada



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