



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Inspecting the community for homeowners and realtors
- If you would like your upcoming events, news articles, or information added, please send to [Service@midlandshi.com](mailto:Service@midlandshi.com)
- Spring is a welcomed sight!

## Spring Maintenance Checklist

A typical spring home inspection should include an evaluation of the roof to identify curling, shrinking, broken or missing shingles that may lead to costly leaks; an assessment of the perimeter of the home to look for signs of settling and for voids that will allow rain to enter through the home's

foundation; as well as a thorough inspection of the air conditioning system.



Roof in need of repair.

“While we don't recommend that homeowners conduct inspections themselves due to safety precautions, there are several areas of the

home that homeowners should pay close attention to,” I encourage homeowners to visually inspect hose bibs (the threaded end of the outside water tap or faucet where a hose can be attached) for signs of frost damage, pipes for separated joints or splits; window and door screens for tears and holes; gutters for broken or loose pieces; and surfaces for cracking or peeling paint and caulking.

## Grilling Safety Tips

Fire in the grill, under hot dogs and burgers, is a welcome sight at the family cookout. But fire anywhere else can make your summer kick-off barbecue memorable for all the wrong reasons.

### Safety tips

1 Propane and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors. If used indoors, or in any

enclosed spaces, such as tents, they pose both a fire hazard and the risk of exposing occupants to toxic gases and potential asphyxiation.

1 Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.

1 Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic.

1 Keep children and pets away from the grill area: declare a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill.

1 Put out several long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames

# Grilling Safety



when flipping burgers.

1 Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.

## Charcoal grills

1 Purchase the proper starter fluid and store the can out of reach of children, and away from heat sources.

1 Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.

## Propane grills

1 Check the gas cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will quickly reveal escaping propane by releasing bubbles. If you determine your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.

1 If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.

1 Use only equipment with the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturers' instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.

NFPA (National Fire Protection Association)  
1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA

2008 Cost vs. Value Report states that a deck will have a 80% return on your investment.

# Landscaping

Creating an outside living area by adding a deck or patio for relaxing. This addition is also a great investment in your home; 2008 Cost vs. Value Report states that a deck will have a 80% return on your investment.

Bring life to small spaces with a garden. They should feature not too many different kinds of plants and

materials. This would make the garden look cluttered. Container gardening can work miracles in small spaces, with the added benefit of being easy to move for each plants needs.

You can enjoy all the rewards that come with landscaping and gardening if with limited space. Choose a focal point and understand how the plants

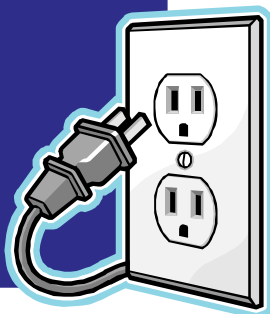
will thrive in the area. Adding landscaping to any area regardless of size brings value to your home. Incorporating your personal touch will make it more fun and satisfying.

# Recall

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued notice that two electrical how-to books produced by Taunton Press

have been voluntarily recalled because of faulty wiring instructions. *Wiring a House* and *Wiring Complete: Expert Advice From Start to Finish*, both published last year contain sev-

eral errors in their technical diagrams. Owners are advised to return them to wherever they were purchased for a refund.



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