



Ways to Maintain Your Home's Exterior:

- ✓ Keep exterior paint in good repair
- ✓ Keep gutters clear of debris
- ✓ Assess drainage
- ✓ Conduct termite inspections
- ✓ Trim proximate plants and shrubs



Five Ways to Maintain Your Home's Exterior

By DENNIS THOMPSON, a Diamond Certified Expert Contributor

In addition to maintaining your home's interior, there are several exterior aspects that you should proactively address in order to avoid major problems down the road.

1. **Keep exterior paint in good repair.** House paint isn't just there to provide color—it also acts as a protective seal against issues like water damage and fungal accumulation. For this reason, it's important to repair chipped or peeling exterior paint as soon as possible.
2. **Keep gutters clear of debris.** Gutters can get clogged by anything from leaves to baseballs, so it's crucial to clean them on a regular basis. When gutters overflow, they can sag and even pull away from the home, resulting in expensive repairs.
3. **Assess drainage.** Make sure the ground outside your home is properly graded so water that's discharged at gutter downspouts runs away from the foundation. Poor drainage can lead to a number of problems, including mold growth and foundation settlement.
4. **Conduct intermittent termite inspections.** Termite infestations often go undetected until the damage has already been done, so it's a good idea to have an inspection performed every three to five years. Additionally, be sure to remove any elements that may attract termites, such as wood or newspaper piled against your home's exterior.
5. **Trim proximate plants and shrubs.** Not only can plants work their way into cracks and holes in your home's exterior, they can also be a catalyst for insect infestation.



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