



"It takes everyone in a community to keep our homes, schools, offices, stores and other buildings safe."

### City of Highland Building and Zoning

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**We're on the Web!**  
[www.highlandil.gov](http://www.highlandil.gov)

# From The Ground Up

Spring 2011

City of Highland's Community Development Mission Statement:

*To ignite positive change through orderly development and revitalization of quality construction while serving in a courteous professional, and ethical manner.*

## Spring Maintenance Tips!

Spring is finally here and the days are getting longer and warmer. With this change in the seasons comes the need for that annual spring cleaning. Whether we love or hate spring cleaning, there is some good news: Cleaning could save you money. When you make some of the following tips you can cut your energy cost by getting better performance from your appliances, exhaust fans, and air conditioners.

- Check smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors by pressing the test button. Make sure to change batteries at the same time. These are both available at local stores. Contact your local fire department for recommendations.
- Replace or clean your furnace/AC filter. This will keep the air in your house cleaner and make your furnace/AC more efficient. If you have window air conditioners clean the back of the unit and dust the central-air system intake and vents. Also keep them clear of obstructions.
- Be sure to check all other vents in your home and make sure that they are clean.
  - Dryer—check the exhaust hose and make sure that it is not clogged and that the vent on the outside of the house is clear of debris
  - Fridge—clean the dust from under the fridge and the vent at the base and any exposed coils at the back. Also make sure products are not blocking the fan vents inside the fridge and freezer.
  - Fans—dust all ceiling fan blades and bathroom fan covers. Clean dust and grease from the kitchen stove hood and exhaust fan.
- Plug your home electronics into an advanced power strip. By doing this you can cut electricity to any idle equipment you choose as many of the old power strips still draw electricity even when off.
- Drain a gallon or two from your hot water heater at least twice a year to extend its life expectancy.
- Check your roof for damage. Inspect for missing or broken shingles—using a pair of binoculars will keep you off a ladder!
- Inspect your vinyl siding for cracks or damaged siding. Watch seams and corners for wind damage. When not fixed, this allows water into the wall cavity causing water damage and mold.
- Clean up the yard. Raking up the winter debris and branches will expose the grass to sun and rain for a nice summer yard. Also, adding fertilizer to your lawn will help it get off to a great start and strengthen it to withstand the stresses of the summer ahead.
- **City wide Spring Clean Up will be held curbside this year May 2—6 watch the city website for more information.**

