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|  **Monthly** Home Maintenance Checklist |
| Clean dryer vent outside.  |  |
| Vacuum the coils on the back and bottom of your refrigerator. |  |
| Vacuum the air vents and heat registers. |  |
| Check for signs of rodents, bats, roaches, termites.  |  |
| Check toilet supply/shut-off valve. (Make sure toilet isn’t running constantly.) |  |
| Check caulk around showers and bathtubs; repair as needed to avoid leaks. |  |
| Check all traps and drains under sinks, tubs, showers for leaks. |  |
| Check hot water heater for leaks |  |
| Check bath and kitchen fans operation. (To check the effectiveness of a bathroom fan vent, turn it on and hold a square of toilet tissue over the vent. If it sticks, your vent is functioning appropriately. If it does not stick, it’s time to repair or replace the vent.) |  |
| Check furnace filters. Replace as needed.  |  |
| Clean screens above the stove as needed. |  |
| Check for mold. Treat immediately. |  |
| Look behind washing machine and check hose connections for leaks. Considerreplacing rubber hoses (which burst when old) with stainless steel ones. |  |
| Check window unit air conditioner filter. |  |
| **Remember to check filters, check for leaks, and check for mold.** |  |

Some interesting tidbits:

* Peppermint oil/cedar oil combo in a spritzer bottle—1 ounce each to 2 ounces distilled water—is an excellent, inexpensive and organic way to protect the home from insects, spiders and rodents all year round.
* When you are sealing openings around pipes and other areas, wedge in steel wool before you spray the foam sealant to keep mice and other crawlies from chewing through the foam.