

## Seasonal Checklist

### ❖ Homes Projects

- Follow all instructions for safe operation of any fireplace or wood burning stove.
- Brush snow off gutters and away from downspouts.
- Remove ice & snow from concrete surfaces & avoid using de-icing agents with damaging salts.
- Decorate safely for the holidays. Do not overload circuits or use worn extension cords.
- Winterize / Service sprinkler system.
- On pleasant days, open windows to allow house to breathe.

### ❖ Condensation, Mold & Mildew

- Mold can be prevented in areas where water has been spilled or if a leak occurs . In such cases, water could get behind the wall and mold growth could occur. Look for discolored areas (usually black) or mold on surfaces. Such areas can also be caused by problems such as leaky pipes under sinks, windows left open for rain to come in, water leakage through uncaulked windows, leaky roofs, etc.
- Uncontrolled mold can even be a health hazard. Consult your personal physician or a local government health authority for guidance if there is any concern for health. Proper maintenance of your home will go a long way toward eliminating or keeping moisture and humidity to a minimum. Use of some or all of the items below will help to eliminate major problems with mold.
- Have your air conditioning system serviced by a recognized professional company at least annually. Ask for advice from an air conditioning specialist if you are unsure about proper usage of your air conditioner.
- When outside weather is warm with low humidity, open windows to allow air circulation through the house.
- Increase circulation of heated air.
- Run the air conditioner during humid months of the year.
- Obtain a dehumidifier for any damp areas of the home. Some examples are steamy bathrooms, basement, indoor pool area, or attached greenhouse.
- Repair any water leaks quickly.
- Take measures to keep water away from the foundation. There are many other ways to care for particular situations but the best of all is to use common sense. The objective is to keep your home dry and free from leaks or water intrusion and excessive condensation.