

as thistles and dandelions. Because a lawnmower has a limited reach, all edges around the buildings, along the bushes, and the fence should be cut with a power weed trimmer or hand shears.

Weeds that grow up through the bushes should be removed. These weeds often deprive bushes of vital nutrients required for healthy growth. Invasive saplings such as silver maples and other trees also need to be pulled from the bushes. Structural damage to the building will eventually occur when such saplings are allowed to grow up through bushes that are planted next to the foundation.

**BEFORE YOU DO ANY MAJOR WORK ON YOUR PROPERTY...**

We recommend that you check with Community Development prior to doing any work on your property. It is better to know you need a permit before commencing work than to find in the middle of a project that a permit was required for that type of work. If you're not sure whether a permit is required for your project, or need more information on permits, please call the Community Development Department BEFORE you start to build at 260-6030

**Mission Statement**

THE GLENDALE HEIGHTS  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT STRIVES TO PROVIDE  
PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE IN  
PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND  
CONSTRUCTION BY ADOPTING AND  
ENFORCING CURRENT CODES AND  
STANDARDS IN A UNIFORM AND  
UNBIASED MANNER, IN ORDER TO  
ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SAFE,  
HEALTHY AND ATTRACTIVE COMMUNITY  
FOR ALL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS  
OWNERS.

This brochure is for informational purposes only. Please check with Community Development for specific codes and ordinances.

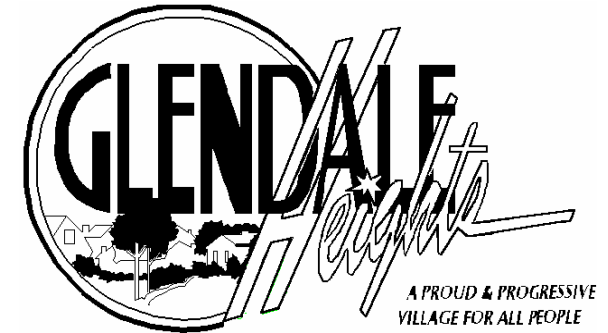
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**VILLAGE OF GLENDALE  
HEIGHTS**

**DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT**

*Taking Care of Your  
Home*



**HOME CARE**

A house is the single most expensive item most people ever purchase. It is also a major responsibility. Your yard is an outdoor extension of your home. It requires just as much attention and care as the inside of your home. With a little time and effort your home can be the pride of your community.

## PAINTING THE HOUSE

All buildings have some paint on them and at some point in time that paint will fail. Paint fails when it starts to flake, peel, or fade beyond the point of equal coverage. When this happens the surfaces being covered are left unprotected from the elements. Most homes in this area have wood, aluminum or fiberboard siding. When the paint fails, these surfaces become susceptible to rotting or corrosion. The best way to prevent paint failure is to re-coat it as soon as you notice any chipping or fading of the paint.

## BRICKWORK

If your house has brick veneer, the bricks and mortar should be checked for cracked or missing components and repaired to stop further damage.

## DOORS

The front door is the gateway to your home. Does it say “welcome to my home”? Is there a clear path to it, or is blocked by overgrown bushes or clutter from old newspapers and toys? Check the frame and lower part of the door for decay. If it requires extensive repair work, it may be better to completely replace it.

## WINDOWS

Your windows bring in light and fresh air. Or at least they should. Make sure the windows open and shut easily. If not the track may need to be cleaned or lubricated. Cracked or broken glass poses a risk of serious injury and reduces energy efficiency. It should be replaced as soon as

possible. Screens also help prevent insects and small rodents from entering your home and therefore need to be in good repair.

## ROOFS AND DRAINAGE

Perhaps the most important part of the house, and we only think about it when it's raining outside, is the roof. A properly installed and maintained roof can last 20 years or more.

Check your roof in the spring and after severe storms for missing shingles. Replace any missing ones with a matching shingle.

Check your gutters and downspouts to make sure they are fastened tight to the building and draining away from the foundation. Serious structural damage or flooding may occur if water is not draining away from the house properly.

## FENCES

It has been said that good fences make for good neighbors. But that is not always true. A fence should be clean, straight and solid. A fence that is not in good repair reflects not only your property, but your neighbor's property as well. For this reason you should periodically check to make sure that all the components are solid. If the panels are loose or the posts are rotted, the fence will eventually lean or fall over. You could be held liable for any personal damage should it fall over onto your neighbor's property. If the fence is painted, check to make sure your neighbor's side also looks acceptable.

## SIDEWALKS, PATIOS, AND DECKS

These are the surfaces we depend on for walking on when we are outside our homes. An improper surface can lead to a serious injury and you may be liable for the injured party. Make sure the surface is level and without cracks or holes. Check for potential splinters in wood surfaces and remove them to avoid an injury.

## SWIMMING POOLS

Swimming pools are great on a hot summer day, but they do require some work. A swimming pool becomes an attractive breeding ground for insects when it is left to sit for several weeks. If you don't plan on using your pool it should be covered and properly maintained or drained and disassembled.

## SHEDS AND DETACHED GARAGES

These structures often get placed on the back burner or completely forgotten about because they are not a part of our house. But they are still a part of your property and therefore still require as much attention as does the rest of your house. Doors should be in working order and kept closed except when structure is being accessed. The exterior should be free of rust and deterioration. Sheds that have settled or shifted should be re-leveled.

## LANDSCAPING

Grass needs to be kept cut in order to promote healthy growth. The ideal height for most grasses in this area is about 3 inches high. Keeping your grass cut also helps control unwanted weed growth such