

## THE 1-DAY SPRING EXTERIOR S.O.S. CHECKLIST

Goal: Complete all 6 audits in 8 hours. Objective: Stop structural damage before it starts.



### PHASE 1:

#### The "High-Level" Morning (2-3 Hours)

Start with these while you have the most energy and the best light.

##### 1. Gutter Deep-Clean (The "Flush & Flow" Test)

The Mission: Remove winter debris, then run a garden hose at full blast into the gutters.

The Audit: Watch the downspout. If water doesn't gush out, you have a clog in the elbow.

✓ Risk Avoided: Fascia board rot and foundation erosion.

##### 2. Roof & Shingle Scouting (The Binocular Method)

The Mission: Use binoculars from the driveway (no ladder needed) to scan for "cupping" or "clawing" shingles.

The Audit: Look for "sand" (granules) at your downspout exits.

✓ Risk Avoided: Interior ceiling leaks and mold growth.

### PHASE 2:

#### The Detail-Oriented Midday (2-3 Hours)

Focus on the "envelope" of your home to keep water out.

##### 3. The Caulking Audit (Seal the Entry Points)

The Mission: Walk the perimeter and inspect the "seams" (windows, door frames, and where different siding materials meet).

The Audit: Poke the caulk. If it's brittle or pulling away, scrape it out.

✓ Risk Avoided: Hidden wood rot behind siding and ant/pest infestations.

##### 4. The "Screen Save" (Breathe Easy)

The Mission: Pop out window screens, scrub with a soft brush, and inspect for "ghosting" (thinning mesh).

The Audit: Check for tiny tears that winter debris may have caused.

✓ Risk Avoided: Keeping pollen and insects out of your clean house.

### PHASE 3:

#### The Afternoon Scrub (2 Hours)

Finish with the tasks that involve water and cleaning solutions.

##### 5. Deck & Patio "Stress Test"

The Mission: Perform the "Water Bead Test." Sprinkle water on your deck boards.

The Audit: If it soaks in, the wood is a sponge; it needs sealer. If it beads, you're safe.

Safety Check: Hammer down "nail pops" to prevent barefoot injuries.

✓ Risk Avoided: Structural deck rot and \$10k replacement costs.

##### 6. Siding & Foundation Scrub-Down

The Mission: Use oxygen bleach and a long brush to kill algae on North-facing walls.

The Audit: While scrubbing low, look for new hairline cracks in the foundation concrete.

✓ Risk Avoided: Permanent siding stains and basement water intrusion.