DevNW

DEVELOPING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Home Maintenance

HOMEBUYING WORKSHOP

Homeownership Common Tools

Here is a list of common tools that will come in handy when you own your house:

Item	Price Estimate
Broom	$
Caulk Gun	$
Extension Cord	$
Extension Ladder (20 foot)	$
Flashlight	$
Gloves	$
Hammer	$
Headlamp	$
Hose	$
Leaf Blower	$
Pliers	$
Plunger	$
Power Drill	$
Drill Bits	$
Safety Glasses	$
Screwdriver set	$
Shovel	$
Stapler	$
Tape Measure	$
Toolbox	$
T-wrench	$
Wheelbarrow	$
Wrench (Channel lock)	$
Wrench (Crescent)	$
Wrench (Pipe)	$

What else?

Item	Est. Price
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$

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How to Be a Good Neighbor

The key to minimizing conflict with your neighbor is to take responsibility for being a good neighbor yourself! What does being a good neighbor look like? It doesn't mean that you have to be best friends or spend time together. It means:

1. **being considerate and**
2. **communicating appropriately.**

These two simple actions will go ·a long way in creating peaceful interactions with your neighbors.

Suggestions for Achieving a Peaceful Coexistence with your Neighbor

Before There is a Concern:

Meet Your Neighbor
Introduce yourself, perhaps at the mailbox, when taking a walk, or when you see the moving boxes arrive. Learning your neighbors' name and regularly offering a cordial "good morning" or "hello" can be the start of a positive relationship. Don't worry about whether or not they reciprocate. The important thing is that you are making an effort. Don't wait until you have a problem to meet your neighbor.

Keep Your Neighbors Informed
Contact your neighbor before you do something that might affect them-such as hosting a big party, building a fence, cutting down a tree, or getting a new dog. Informing your neighbors ahead of time allows them to make plans or tell you how your project will affect them. Getting their input lets you act in a way that avoids problems.

Observe the Platinum Rule
Treat your neighbors the way they would like to be treated. Set an example by being considerate about noise from vehicles, tools, stereos, group activities and pets.

Be Aware of Differences
Differences in age, ethnic background, years in the neighborhood, etc. can lead to conflicting expectations or misunderstandings unless we make an effort to communicate and understand each other.

Consider the "View11 from Your Neighbors' Yard
How does your compost pile, dog run, or son's car parts look from your neighbors' backyard or windows? Keep areas that are in others' view reasonably presentable.

Be Appreciative
If your neighbor does something you like, tell them! They will be pleased that you noticed the yard work or the new paint job. It will be easier to talk later when they do something that you don't like.
When there is a Problem

How to Be a Good Neighbor

Don't Assume That Discussing a Problem Will Aggravate Your Neighbor
Your neighbors can't help resolve a problem they don't know exists. If your focus is on:

- **learning** rather than delivering a message
- **understanding and acknowledgement** rather than blame
- **joint problem solving** rather than who is at fault

Your conversation will go better than you think. Time and time again, we've found that neighbors are not aware that their actions are negatively affecting others. Usually, people are willing to make changes if you approach them respectfully.

Don't Assume You know Your Neighbors' Intentions
If your neighbor does something that irritates you, don't assume that it was done on purpose. Presume the neighbor doesn't know about the annoyance. Giving them the benefit of the doubt will make it easier for you to talk about the situation.

Don't Wait to Talk about Things that Bother You
If your neighbor does something that bothers you, let them know. By communicating early and calmly, you take a big step forward toward resolving the problem.

Separate the Person from the Problem
Conflict is inevitable whenever two or more people interact with one another. It occurs because we are all unique individuals with different perspectives, values, and needs. Focusing on the issue will allow you to take care of the problem while maintaining or improving your relationship with your neighbor.

Be Respectful
Talk directly with the neighbor involved with the problem. Don't gossip or spread rumors with other neighbors. Gossip damages relationships and can hurt other people. Problem solving is only possible when we treat each other with respect.

Listen
When you discuss a problem, try to understand how your neighbor feels about an issue and why. Understanding, which is not the same as agreeing, will increase the likelihood of a solution that works for you both. Summarize what you hear and ask questions to clarify your understanding of their view of the problem.

If Things Get Heated1 Take a Break
If you need to, take a break to calm down and think about what you and your neighbor have discussed. Arrange a time to finish the conversation later, and then do so. It's hard to problem solve when you are having a heated discussion. Constructive communication can resolve conflict, and talking things over directly is the best way to handle problems, and avoid enforcement or the courts.

Home Maintenance Checklist

Year:

	Spring		Fall		Periodic
☐	Clean Windows and Repair Screens	☐	Check and Seal Windows	☐	Weatherproof Doors
☐	Unclog and Secure Gutters and Downspouts	☐	Upgrade to a programmable Thersmostat	☐	Pressure Wash Deck
☐	Regrade Around Foundation	☐	Check and Clean Humidifier	☐	Pressure Wash Siding
☐	Test Sump Pump	☐	Close Critter Entrances	☐	Check and Maintain
☐	Clean AC System	☐	Shut Off Hoses Bibs	☐	Roof Shingles
☐	Inspect and Maintain Laundry Room	☐	Check and Maintain Dishwasher	☐	Check and Recaulk Flashing
☐	Check Attic Room	☐	Clean Out Gutters	☐	Repair and Reseal Driveway
☐	Test GFCI Outlets	☐	Clean Outdoor Drains	☐	Check Life Expectancy of Appliances
☐	Change Furnace Filters	☐	Clear Out Sink Drains	☐	Lubricade Door Hinges and Harware
☐	Change Batteries in Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors	☐	Change Furnace Filters	☐	
☐		☐	Test Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors	☐	
☐		☐		☐	
☐		☐		☐	
	Summer		**Winter**	☐	
☐	Clean and Care for Deck	☐	Check and Upgrade Insulation	☐	
☐	Clean Siding	☐	Check and Maintain Furnace	☐	
☐	Check Crawlspace	☐	Vacuum Air Registers	☐	
☐	Maintain Yard Growth	☐	Check and Flush Water Heater	☐	
☐	Test and Lubricate Garage Door	☐	Recaulk Bathtub	☐	
☐	Remove Rust on Railings	☐	Maintain Fireplace and Chimney	☐	
☐	Check Skylights	☐	Check Crawlspace	☐	
☐	Clean Shower Heads	☐	Replenish Flashlight Batteries	☐	
☐	Change Furnace Filters	☐	Check Gutters for Ice	☐	
☐	Test Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors	☐	Change Furnace Filters	☐	
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