

# Exterior "Ladder" Checklist

Many outside tasks require working from a ladder. Only if you have a safe ladder and are comfortable, should you tackle these chores yourself.

- Exterior Caulking- check for cracks and splits in the existing caulking around your windows, doors, frames, joints and any accent pieces or light fixture - to ensure a moisture tight seem!
- Chimney & Vent Pipes / Wall Mounted Exhaust Vents- inspect these and repair or replace flashing, vent covers, flaps, or caulking: We suggest upgrading an exhaust fans with no moving parts (quiet in the wind) and easy removable face for easy maintenance.
- Gutters - clean and make any adjustments or repairs to insure water is carried away from your foundation; if your gutters fill up quickly, consider using a product like Gutter Stuff
- Siding - caulk gaps between siding and trim to keep water out; repair or replace siding with water damage. Our company has repaired siding problems ignored for too long, resulting in serious damage to underlying structural wood. The most frequent causes:



- Infestations of carpenter ants which explore until they find, high humidity environments with ample food (i.e. wood siding and/or hidden support structure).
  - Masonite siding which disintegrates easily once it gets wet, and is found in homes as new as 5 years to roughly 20 years old
  - Wood trim - inspect and repair or replace damaged pieces of wood trim. We recommend replacing the wood with a composite like Azek that doesn't rot:
  - Window sills - tend to hold silt, which in turn holds water that causes damage that is easy to repair when first observed but after many years, may require new windows
- Kick plates under doors - water hits steps or decks and bounces back up saturating this vertical strip of wood under doors; unless painted every year, the wood will rot
  - Windows and doors - caulk around windows and doors to keep water out; inspect to make sure they're operational and glass clear and secure
  - Exterior Painting - check for peeling or flaking paint; often one side of the house needs to be painted more frequently due to more direct sunlight or higher humidity when foliage blocks the sun.

Source: Home Fix It dot COM