

## Spring Check-Up of Your Roof May Cut Repair Bills

Your roof—the first line of defense between you and the weather—is worth taking a look at in early Spring after winter's storms have done their worst.

If your roof is less than ten years old, a simple visual inspection from the ground should be sufficient. Look for faulty flashings, gutters or defective chimney masonry. These are actually the major causes of roof leaks. Also look for loose or split shingles, missing shingles or bare spots on the roof.

**SYMPTOMS** of roof trouble to look for inside the house are:  
 1. Stains or discolorations of ceilings, walls, plaster or wallpaper.  
 2. Warning of floor boards or window frames.  
 3. A persistent feeling of dampness in one or more rooms.

If your roof is ten years old or older, an annual Spring checkup by a qualified local roofer is recommended. By detecting minor leaks, he can put things right with inexpensive repairs.

If it proves necessary to re-roof your house, use the project as means of beautifying and modernizing your property as well as protecting it. In deciding on the roofing material you will use, consider the color, texture and design that will best enhance the attractiveness of your home.

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# OUTDOOR LIVING DOWN TO EARTH Drop That Rake—It's Too Early

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME  
 Social Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

If you have followed this column for a few years, you will know that I always advise home gardeners to remember my warning of the Three Spring Temptations. The first time we have a perfect spring day and you put on your favorite old work coat, grab a rake and a basket just put everything away. Spring is only fleeting and you can do unlimited damage by disturbing the grass roots and stirring the soil in your flower beds.

Ah, along comes the Second Day of Temptation. This is the day, you say, when you hang up your coat, put the rake away and the basket. It is too early for gardening. Just pick up sticks if you must look busy.

A few days later when the day of Third Temptation arrives, you may mildly begin to clean up the lawn and remove a portion of the mulch on your flower beds. Just walk and visit with your neighbors, as too early activity in the garden can really cause plenty of damage.

REMEMBER, rose research has shown us that we do not trim down the canes of our roses in the spring the way we used to groom our bushes. You only cut the canes needed to improve the profile of the rose bush and stop cane rotting each other. You will have many more roses.

By following this rule, you will not mangle any of your flower beds until July first. They will prosper by having the soil to promote growth.

For the lucky readers who have a European ticket this summer, be sure to plan a generous stop in Geneva, Switzerland. It is difficult to find words to describe the beauty of the city on Lake Geneva, with its parkside shore and colorful flower beds.

It has a fountain, called "Fédib," which rises 212 feet out of its base and is the symbol of the city. Genevaise are proud of its show at night as the lights play on the majestic waterfall.

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