

tips on how to check

It's very easy to know when your car is getting up there in mileage, simply check the odometer. Not to mention that there are various other indicators-- engine knocking, fluids leaking, gas mileage dropping-- which let you know your car ain't what she used to be. But what about your home? There is no odometer to say to clean your gutters at this particular mileage or add insulation at this year or caulk your windows before you go on vacation.

We spend more time in our houses than in our cars, yet we give our vehicles more basic maintenance than our houses, and houses typically cost 10 times as much. So unless home builders start putting in odometers on houses, we will have to listen to conventional wisdom and listen to our homes. [Home Inspection Long Island NY](#)

Listen, Look, and Investigate

First, you need to listen to your house, and not just for the noticeable things such as creaking floors and dripping faucets. Listen when your cooling unit comes on. Does it sound right? Is there a loud noise that occasionally scares you? This could mean it is in need of a little care. Call an a/c contractor to come out and check. Have this unit inspected at the very least once a year.

If your HVAC unit is constantly kicking on and then back off, this means that your home is having a difficult time holding a consistent temperature. This can be the result of numerous different maintenance issues or maybe a combination.

Unquestionably you are having trouble insulating. Think about blown in insulation, which will be able to deliver solid performance throughout any season without having to rip out your walls.

If insulation is not the issue, you might have trouble with the seals around your windows and doors. Replacement windows will definitely do the trick, nevertheless at minimum have your windows caulked and sealed once a year.

Your ducts are quite likely dirty and inefficient, which also makes even more work on your HVAC unit. Three items here: have your ducts cleaned, change the filter on your HVAC unit, and have your ducts sealed. All of these three items together are very likely to save more money in one year than it will cost to have them performed. Your filter should be changed at the beginning of summer and winter.

Use Your Eyes

Next, you need to check out things. It can be difficult to notice things that you are consistently walking past, but take a really good look at your house.

Is the paint on your home flaking?

Are the gutters chock full of leaves and debris?

Do your deck and fence have sun damage?

Has your sink been dripping for months?

Investigate

Take a spin through each and every area within your house and just check out everything. Use your hands to feel walls and floors and decide if everything appears on the up and up. This might require 10 minutes. You have time for that, right? You may find several things you didn't know were there and you can stop them before it's too late. You might even rediscover an old problem that you have swept under the rug.

Homes are made to stand the test of time, whereas vehicles seem only to last a couple of years. Yet houses won't travel the distance without proper maintenance, and the miles can certainly rack up in the event that we let leaves remain in the gutters and let the heating and cooling unit function all day long. We do not have miles so as to determine our home maintenance actions, but we can certainly use our senses, and at the very least, we can use our calendars.

Jim Ruppert is the proprietor of Safe Harbor Inspections Inc.. They are a highly regarded provider of residential property inspection services in Louisville, KY. They go places where other residential property inspectors won't. Phone them right now to get your expert residential property inspection scheduled [home inspection program](#) or give them a call at 631-259-6607. For general important information on property inspections, also have a look at [home inspection atlanta](#).