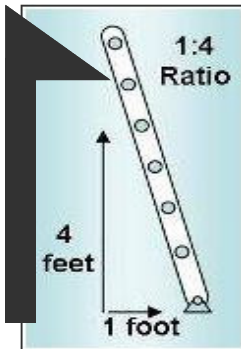


Fall Maintenance

Issue 4, Volume 1: October 2010

While it's still nice out...



*Ladder Safety tips below

Outdoor maintenance is always more enjoyable when the weather is pleasant. Aim to have it all done before the snow flies:

- ◆ **Roof** — Look for missing/damaged shingles, exposed nail heads, loose flashing.
- ◆ **Chimney** — Check cap, as well as masonry, for damage; Arrange to have it cleaned.
- ◆ **Eaves** — Clean gutters; Check brackets for leakage; Why not hang the holiday lights while you're up there!
- ◆ **Walls** — Re-point loose mortar on brick walls; Inspect siding for any damage that will allow in water or pests, seal or replace as required.
- ◆ **Driveway** — consider having it sealed against frost and frozen water damage. This goes for concrete walkways/patios as well.

Your warm, dry, happy home...

Once the exterior is taken care of, make yourself something hot to drink and consider what can be done inside your home:

- ◆ **Attic** — check for water damage on roof sheathing and insulation; make sure eave vents are clear and pest screens are intact; consider sealing air leaks at wires, plumbing and vents.
- ◆ **Furnace** — change filters and have the ducts cleaned.
- ◆ **Windows & Doors** — Caulk, paint and weather-strip as necessary; Don't forget to clear and protect window wells!

Ladder Safety

- ⇒ Inspect ladders regularly for damage and wear.
- ⇒ Place on stable, even surface using the 1:4 ratio (see pic above) - place ladder base 1 foot from what it leans against for every 4 feet of height to where it makes contact.
- ⇒ Always face the ladder when climbing up or down; keep both feet on the ladder and only support your weight on the rungs — never on the top or on the paint shelf.
- ⇒ When setting up, ensure braces/locks are secure. Lash or fasten tall ladders to prevent movement;
- ⇒ Don't go higher than the 2nd rung (from the top) on stepladders or the 3rd rung on extension ladders.



For Your Information...

Brighten your work day!

It may be too early to turn them on, but, since you are already up the ladder, why not install your holiday lights.

LINKS

For more ladder safety, check out:

DIY DOCTOR

[DIY Ladder Safety](#)

Questions or comments?

Email us at office@dsgi.on.ca or call 1-888-803-3371