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HOME MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

The salt air on the Islands can be harmful to your home and furnishings if not looked after properly. Here are a few helpful suggestions to keep your property and chattels in pristine condition.

3 Monthly

- Using CRC 808 Silicon spray, spray a small amount on all steel surfaces around doors, hinges, locks, exposed screws.
 - Include your BBQ
 - Outdoor furniture if it has steel bolts or fixtures
 - LPG fitting and LPG bottles. *Clean these with water first*
 - Check your kitchen ware – fridge tops, stove, cooktop, microwave etc. Clean and wipe down with CRC 808
- Clean windows and doors of any Mold both inside and outside
- Clean filters on aircon units and dehumidifiers
- Wash your washing machine and dishwasher. Run an empty machine with diluted Janola or similar cleaner. Especially if you can notice an odour

6 Monthly

- Clean water filter canister
- Check for any rust or corrosion on all steel surfaces. Clean with a wire brush if necessary and paint with steel or galv primer. This can be purchased from CI Building Supplies
- Keep weeds from creeping under your house as this causes water retention or a damp environment for mosquitos to breed
- Prevent stagnant water from pooling in planters, tyres, pots etc to reduce mosquitos from breeding
- Clean out roof guttering of leaves and debris

- Ensure no soil is touching your house directly. Clear away as necessary
- Ensure downpipes are clear at the bottom and flowing away from your home if you're not collecting rainwater
- Ensure your taps and toilets are not dripping water. If you have a water pump and you hear it turning on regularly without turning on a tap this is a sign of a leak somewhere
- Check for mold, lichen, or mildew. Clean with Vinegar or other cleaning solutions as necessary
- Defrost your fridge and freezer. Ice builds up quickly in humid climates and prevents your fridge from moving cold air around the inside. If you see ice building up at the back of your fridge it's time for a defrost.

12 Monthly

- Replace UV bulb in water filtration unit
- Inspect outside paintwork and touch up as required
- If your deck has nails, ensure the heads are flat and below the wood surface
- If you're starting to track in mud or dirt into your home add stones to your walkways as required
- If possible, climb onto your roof with a ladder and check for any signs of rust around the edges of the corrugated iron or nails. Clean and prime as necessary
- Trim hedges or trees away from your home so rats and mice can't easily access your roof space
- Inspect plumbing for leaks, especially in damp areas.
- Replace smoke detector batteries. Make it the beginning of summer or spring so it's easy to remember.
- Replenish your emergency kit, first aid supplies, fresh cans, check water bottles, candles, and LED torch.
- If you have storm shutters check, they are in good condition and repaired as necessary.
- Check for mold, lichen, or mildew. Clean with Vinegar or other cleaning solutions as necessary
- Clean the tops of your ceiling fans. Dust buildup can cause unbalanced fans making them sway and noisy
- Do a visual inspection of water pipes, LPG pipes and any exposed power cables. If any sign of UV damage is present call a plumber and ask for a second opinion
- Check door seals on your Fridge and freezer. A good trick is to place a torch inside your fridge or freezer at night and close the door. With your kitchen lights off check around door seals for any light coming from inside the fridge. If so, ensure your seals are free of dirt, food and rust. This will save you money in the long run.

Other things to pay attention to on a regular basis

Be mindful of Coconuts and where they could fall. The same is true for palm fronds. Prune your trees and plants regularly keeping them looking great, and free from falling hazards.

Water can blow uphill with a strong wind so if you get a leak, it's likely not immediately above. Keep this in mind when trying to find them

LPG is dangerous so turn small BBQ bottles off when not in use. If you smell LPG, check your connections are screwed firmly. Spraying soapy water over your connections will show you when the leak is when you can see bubbles forming. If its still present turn your LPG bottle off turning it clockwise when looking down on it and call your plumber for assistance.

Always keep an LPG bottle connected to your BBQ. Even if empty. This will prevent bugs from laying eggs in your gas regulator which can easily block the small jet.

Always use a good power surge protector on your electronic appliances to prevent damage from lightning or voltage spikes

Good ventilation for home and furniture, cupboards, draws, especially laundry cupboards will prevent mould forming. Direct sunlight is a great and cheap sanitiser

Did you know?

Air conditioners are great but can be expensive here in the Cook Islands. Ensure you have them set to 22 degrees cooling and have closed your windows and doors. Close doors for any rooms you're not trying to cool for better effect

Rainfall can be sporadic in the dry season between June and October so collecting your roof water gives you more options during this time. This is especially useful if you have a swimming pool.

Fridges and freezers need room to breathe. Ensure your fridge has space to allow the heat to escape from the compressor area located at the back of the fridge. Typically 25-50mm at the back and 25mm on the sides.

Fridge and freezers typically work best when full and are cheaper to run.

These easy tasks will keep your home dry and looking beautiful.

Meitaki Ma'ata

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