



Building Services Authority

MEDIA RELEASE

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Home owner maintenance: taking care of your most valuable asset

A person's home is likely to be their most valuable asset, so the Queensland Building Services Authority (BSA) is encouraging people to take care of it.

BSA's general manager Ian Jennings said today that some of the problems seen by BSA could be avoided with better home maintenance.

"The most common maintenance problems we see involve roof leaks, termites, and wooden deck seals," he said.

"Home owners sometimes think these faults have been caused by poor workmanship, when on occasions it can mostly be attributed to a lack of routine maintenance.

"Spending half an hour cleaning leaves out of gutters, especially in storm season, could save you thousands of dollars in repair bills.

"People whose homes have box or valley gutters need to be particularly careful as these types of gutters when not maintained can sometimes cause rainwater to back up and flow inside a home, flooding the interior and causing severe damage."

Another costly problem that can be easily and economically avoided is termites.

"Regularly inspecting termite management systems can help avoid a costly termite infestation.

"Schedule a licensed termite management contractor to inspect your property every 12 months, and take a look yourself every two or three months.

"Don't rely on an old inspection report – the fact the house was termite-free last year doesn't mean it still is," Mr Jennings warned.

Mr Jennings also said that when it comes to wooden decks that have been painted or oiled, homeowners living in tropical areas should be prepared to do maintenance more often than their southern counterparts.

"Some oils or paints can require maintenance just six to 12 months after they were first applied.

"Home owners should check with the product manufacturer about what performance they can expect in their climate, and ensure they follow the manufacturer's maintenance guidelines.

"If home-owners spend a little more time on their most valuable asset, they could help to avoid some costly and troublesome problems."

For more information about home maintenance or any other building-related issue, call BSA on 1300 BSA BSA (1300 272 272) or visit www.bsa.qld.gov.au.

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