

When does a leaky faucet become a plumber call? Preventing emergency repairs.

“You can ignore a dripping faucet for years, but it will only get worse.”

It happens to the best of us. There’s a leaky faucet, so we roll up our sleeves and fix it. It’s a simple matter of replacing a washer and tightening a valve. But somehow, the sink floods hours later, and we only made the problem worse.

There’s a blurry line between Do-It-Yourself and calling in an expert. And that line depends on our experiences and skillsets. Some homeowners have a trusted handyman on speed dial. Others are confident enough to execute entire interior renovations. And they have the kitchens to show for it.

Of course, there are your current circumstances, too. You may have the carpentry mastery to fix any major problem. But you’d rather put your skills to better use, like building a tree house for your kids.

What should I do myself, and what should I leave to the experts?

Most homeowners can replace light bulbs, unclog drains, and clean gutters. Or at least YouTube their way through it. Issues that interfere with the larger systems of your home require experts. Think electrical, plumbing, HVAC, etc.

Every homeowner should be familiar with these larger systems. While you shouldn’t try to fix them on your own, a basic understanding will help you enjoy your home longer. It can distinguish between “hey, the toilet is acting weird” and “hey, I think the toilet issue is part of a septic tank problem.”

Key takeaways

- There’s a lot that goes into maintaining your home. But you don’t have to do it alone! Reach out and I’ll gladly refer some trusted professionals.
- If you take care of your home, your home will take care of you.



Stuart Pollard

Realtor #0225246296

A: 43777 Central Station Dr.

Suite 390,

Ashburn, VA 20147

C: (703) 814-2484

O: (571) 386-1075

E: StuartPollardRealEstate@gmail.com

W: BuyAndSellWithStu.com

“I’m never too busy for you or your referrals”



Let's review what makes a home a functional shelter and what you can do to care for it.

Plumbing: You should know where the shut-off valves and main water supply are. Regular maintenance includes checking for leaks, replacing worn-out washers, and cleaning drains. Doing these yourself prevents major plumbing problems down the road.

Electrical: While you can test and replace faulty outlets, anything more significant should generally be left to the professionals. We take electricity for granted, but without the proper skills, it is dangerous.

HVAC: Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning are highly specialized. The best thing you can do for longevity is to have your system serviced annually. Aside from that, you should replace air filters regularly (every 3-6 months, depending on the filter) as they are vital to the air quality of your home.

Roofing: Generally speaking, roofs last between 15-25 years. Look out for cracked or missing shingles and overhanging branches. Please don't wait for a storm to make them a problem; trim them back while you have the time. Cleaning gutters and downspouts also prevents bigger issues later on.

Foundation: Because your foundation is vital, even general maintenance should be left to professionals. However, understand that moisture and roots are the main culprits for damage. Poor drainage, leaky plumbing, and high humidity can crack your foundation. Signs of foundational damage can be as inconspicuous as doors or windows not closing correctly or be as evident as uneven floors or cracked walls.

Yes, there's a lot that goes into maintaining your home. But you don't have to do it alone!

If you need any of the professional services suggested above, reach out. I'd be more than happy to refer you to trusted partners.

“Stuart was great, the best realtor experience we have ever had. He was very knowledgeable about the market, always very responsive to our requests and questions, and very personable in our dealings with him. We would definitely recommend him to anyone looking for a real estate agent!”

~ Satisfied client who bought a single-family home in Gainesville, VA.



Victoria Kiser

Sr. Loan Officer / NMLS #190918

C: (703) 328-7238

E: VKiser@embracehomeloans.com

W: Vkiser.EmbraceHomeLoans.com

NMLS ID #2184

If you are one of the many renters who are trying to purchase a home and have been unable to, we have good news! Despite what you are hearing from the media, there are still options to get a reduced interest rate on your new home, and our Approved to Move program is designed to make your offer go to the head of the line

by eliminating contingencies! We will completely underwrite your loan up front AND provide a Value Certificate so that there are no surprises. Reach out today for more details!