



## Maintain your home

The most important things to do to keep dry, warm and healthy, and save in the long run

- Clean your house exterior (roof and walls) every year, touch up peeling paint, and repaint every 5-10 years
- Fix any rotten weatherboards or window frames
- Replace missing or cracked roof tiles and fix cracked ridge lines and Capping
- Clean out guttering every year and replace any missing guttering
- Make sure windows shut properly and repair old, shrunk or missing seal / putty
- Clean mould off with water and vinegar
- Replace sealant in bathrooms and kitchens
- Fix any leaking taps or pipes
- Make sure water drains away from the house to stop damp rising up through your house



## Why is maintenance important?

1. It's cheaper to do small maintenance jobs like cleaning and paint touch ups, than to do big repairs
2. Leaks cause water damage to your home that will cost more to repair
3. Leaks make the air and surfaces in your home damp and mouldy. Mould makes asthma and respiratory illness worse – you'll pay more in doctors and medical bills
4. Damp air is harder to heat – you'll either need to run the heater for longer (more \$) or you'll be colder (bad for your health)
5. Gaps in your roof, floor or walls let cold air in and warm air out. Cold houses lead to more colds, flus and illness.