



Hassle Free Home Services, Inc.

P.O. Box 59619
Potomac, MD 20859-9619

What Damage has happened to my yard?

An inspection of your yard, plants and trees, decks, pools and other outbuilding is in order for this spring. The heavy February snows put significant weight on all of your plantings and trees. Here are a couple of tips to help as you look around your yard.

Large Trees (Oaks, Poplars, Maples - trees greater that 25 feet high)

You should thoroughly inspect all of your trees from a safe distance, looking for broken or hanging limbs. If you see any hanging branches DO NOT try to remove them yourself. The limbs are heavier than they look, you risk damaging the tree, your house and most importantly, yourself if you try to remove them without professional assistance. Please give us a call and we will have our tree people provide an estimate to remove the branches.



Medium sized trees (Leland Cyrus, Evergreen, Pine, and Crap Myrtles - tree less than 25 feet tall)

Evergreen trees were hit the hardest because their branches caught more snow than their deciduous neighbors. If you have a number of these trees on your property, chances are you will have a fair bit of debris to remove. In some cases, the damage to a given tree will be so extreme as to render it unhealthy or aesthetically unappealing. Leland Cyruses in particular suffered from a different issue: due to their shallow root balls and tall stature, many of these trees toppled over in the snow and wind. The good news is that these trees often times can be saved if they are righted and re-staked quickly.





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Smaller shrubbery (all types, generally on the ground and less than 4 feet tall)

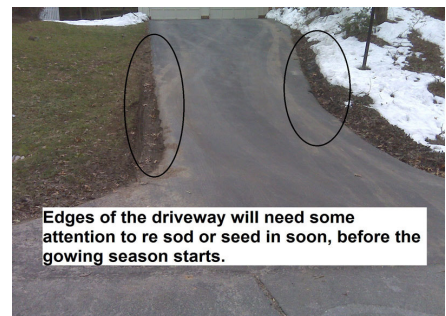
Some of your smaller plants and shrubs are just now emerging from the snow piles. At this point, we recommend not trying to remove whatever snow is remaining on your shrubs as you have the potential to break additional limbs in the process. After a few more days of 50 degree weather, they should be free of the snow. Ground cover like Ivy, Pachysandra and your grass will be ok once the snow has melted. You just need to be careful and stay off of it, as the ground is very wet and soft, particularly along the sides of the driveways where the snow has been piled.



This bush will bounce back with a little bit of help. Nothing is broken.



Many broken branches on this bush, will need to be pruned and cut back once the snow is gone.



Edges of the driveway will need some attention to re sod or seed in soon, before the growing season starts.

Other Concerns (Landscape lighting, deck furniture)

Pay close attention to any landscape lighting that is out in your yard, particularly along driveways where plows damaged hidden fixtures. We are seeing a large number of path lights that are either broken or have been pushed over. Some of these can just be pulled back up and re-secured. However, if they are broken they will need to be replaced or removed and their wires will need to be terminated properly. We can help with finding and installing replacement fixtures. You should also take a look to see if any deck furniture, grills, etc were damaged by the snow. We will have our technicians take a close look as well during their monthly appointments.

Pools and Outbuilding

We are seeing many of the winter covers being stretched and sagging into the pools. Please do NOT try to remove the snow from these, you can fall into the pool or damage the cover. If there is damage to the cover or the deck it has already happened and removing the remaining snow may only cause more damage. If you do find any damage or have concern, please give us a call and we will either take a look or call our pool service to determine what needs to be done. Hopefully warmer weather will be here soon, and we will all be complaining about how HOT it is outside.

Who do I call if I have questions?

You can call your Home Manager at any time. We would be happy speak with you and/or come out and take look at what is going on and complete an evaluation.