

Preparing Your Club for the Upcoming Season: Spring Maintenance Best Practices



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Introduction

With spring finally upon us, patrons will soon be flocking in for some much-needed fun at your facility. But before that, you'll need to make some preparations. It's time to get your course and clubhouse maintenance in full swing. We've put together some best practices to help you manage your maintenance—and your risk—for the upcoming season.

Assess the Grounds and Property

Winter can wreak havoc on a course. Be sure to check for broken tree limbs and winter debris, along with any damage to the turf. Not only can these be unsightly, they can also pose a risk of injury to your staff and patrons.

In some cases, [damaged trees](#) may need to be removed, requiring a specialist. Make sure you contact someone with extensive experience in the golf industry. You'll want someone who knows how to remove the tree without causing further damage to the turf.

You'll also want to thoroughly look over the property, paying special attention to sidewalks, parking lots, and other surfaces that may have sustained damage. These should be repaired immediately to prevent trips and falls, or at least temporarily noted with bright warning signs to alert staff and visitors.

Check Your Inventory

Take a full inventory from golf balls to maintenance equipment, chemicals and kitchen supplies. Considering the delays we've seen from shipping carriers this past year, you'll want to make sure you can get the necessary items in time.

This is also a good time to note any equipment that may need some attention. Don't limit this to the big-ticket items like golf carts and turf equipment. Check anything that could mechanically fail, up to and including soap dispensers. Tag or set aside these items for either repair or replacement.

Again, malfunctioning equipment isn't just an inconvenience. Even smaller items like kitchen appliances and fitness equipment can cause serious injury to your staff and patrons if left in ill repair.

Reach Out to Your Patrons

Keep your patrons updated on the status of your facilities, when they're open, outlining what (if anything) may be closed or under maintenance, etc. Include information in newsletters or emails you send out, and be sure to update your website and social media accounts. Your guests will appreciate knowing what to expect before they step onto your property.

Contact Your Insurance Agent or Broker

While winter weather can be tough on a course, spring can certainly hold its own in terms of risks. One of the best things you can do to prepare is contact your insurance agent or broker. Be sure to walk through with them anything you found as you assessed the property. They'll be able to advise on how to best mitigate the risks and ensure you're adequately covered.

You should also inform your insurance agent or broker if you've made any changes to your business offerings. Perhaps you have a [third party](#) coming in to teach yoga a few days a week. Or, you've started offering [meals for pickup or delivery](#). Any change to your business offerings is also a change in your risk, and the earlier they're involved, the better.

Following these tips and best practices can help ensure your club is both ready for use and protected against future claims. For more information, reach out to our golf insurance experts at info@vgminsurance.com or **800-362-3363**.

