

Homeowner Information and Warranties Handbook



Live Liberty!

Manual Version 2023-04

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WELCOME

Congratulations on the purchase of your new home!

We at Liberty Homes thank you for choosing us to build a home for you and your family. Your home has been built by professional tradesmen using modern construction techniques and quality materials. All work has been supervised by our staff of construction professionals to ensure that high standards of quality have been met. However, we realize that with the construction of a new home there will be items that naturally occur that may require minor adjustments and corrections. And, while our team works from detailed plans and specifications, no two homes are exactly alike, so over time, each behaves differently.

This Homeowner Information and Warranties Manual was created to help guide you through your new home. This manual contains important information on the Liberty Homes builder warranty, as well as the maintenance of your home. Following these helpful hints, as well as other guidelines from the manufacturers, can help keep your home safe and comfortable for years to come. Preventative maintenance on your new home should begin when you move in. A little time spent regularly maintaining your home can save thousands of dollars in repair or replacement in the future. Failure to maintain your home's components may also lead to the voiding of manufacturers' and contractors' warranties.

Please take the time to carefully study this manual to become familiar with the builder warranty and procedures for care and maintenance. We recognize that it is impossible to anticipate and describe every item that may need attention on your home, but we have included the most important items in this manual. Because we offer homebuyers a variety of floor plans and optional features, this manual may discuss components that are not present in your home.

Prompt Attention

In addition to routine care, quite often there are times that minor maintenance attention provided immediately can save you from experiencing a more serious, time-consuming, or costly repair later. Note also that neglecting routine maintenance can void applicable Limited Warranty coverage on all or part of your home. By caring for your new home attentively, you ensure uninterrupted warranty coverage as well as continuous enjoyment of your home for years. The attention provided by each homeowner contributes significantly to the overall desirability of the community.

Manufacturer Literature

Please take time to read the literature (warranties and use and care guides) provided by the manufacturers of consumer products.

Although much of the information may be familiar to you, some points may differ significantly from homes you have had in the past. We make every effort to keep the information in this manual current. However, if any detail in our discussion conflicts with

the manufacturer's recommendations, you should follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Activate specific manufacturer's warranties by completing and mailing registration cards included with materials or going on the manufacturers' websites. In some cases, a manufacturer's warranty may extend beyond the first year, and it is in your best interests to know about such coverage.

Natural Building Materials

Due to the moisture and temperature extremes found in Utah, natural building materials such as wood and concrete are subject to repeated expansion and contraction. This can result in warping or shrinking of wood materials and cracking in drywall, stucco, concrete, mortar, and caulking. These effects are particularly noticeable in the first year after a new home has been built.

You can minimize these effects by taking steps to protect any natural materials outside of the home, such as using sealants, and for interior products, maintaining a constant temperature in your home during the first year. This allows the wood, concrete, and other material to dry or cure at an even rate and may eliminate larger settlement cracks. **Minor cracks, warping, and shrinkage in wood, concrete, and other natural materials are a normal part of the aging process and do not affect the structural integrity of the home. Because this is a normal part of the aging process, cracks, warping, and shrinkage are not typically covered by the builder warranty, especially in instances where the homeowner fails to take steps to protect the natural materials. See the specific sections of this manual for more information.**

EMERGENCY SERVICE

WHEN TO CALL

Our trade contractors and local utility companies provide emergency response to the following conditions:

- Total loss of heat when the outside temperature is below 45 degrees Fahrenheit
- Total loss of air conditioning when the outside temperature exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit
- Total loss of electricity or power to refrigerator or furnace
- Major water leak or no water to home
- Natural Gas leak

PHONE NUMBERS

Gas	Dominion Energy	800-767-1689
Power	Rocky Mountain Power	877-508-5088
Power (Heber Only)	Heber Light & Power	435-654-2913
Plumbing	Speirs Plumbing	801-546-0522
HVAC (Single Family)	HVAC Construction	801-298-4822
HVAC (Townhomes)	McMain Comfort Solutions	435-830-1250
Electrical	Eyre Electric	801-571-3211

NOTE: DO NOT call these numbers for non-emergency warranty requests. **All non-emergency requests must be submitted through Liberty Homes' online warranty request system** (see next section). If you call in what is determined to be a non-emergency, you may be charged an emergency service call fee.

While emergency warranty situations are rare, prompt response is essential for resolution. Begin by checking items that are accessible to you. You can find troubleshooting tips throughout this manual to help with checking several of your home's components. Often, by taking the appropriate actions, you can solve the problem immediately or mitigate the situation until a technician arrives. However, do not do anything beyond the basic troubleshooting items listed in this manual or attempt to repair the defect yourself unless authorized by Liberty Homes. Any attempt to repair a defect, other than an authorized emergency repair, will make it impossible to assess whether the defect was covered by the Limited Warranty. Unless an emergency defect repair is authorized, Liberty Homes will have no responsibility to reimburse any costs due to repair, replacement, and other expenses. Unauthorized repairs will also void the Limited Warranty for any future issues that arise on the repaired item or area. If you are unsure whether to attempt to repair an item, contact Liberty Homes first.

Note that if a service (gas, electricity, water) is out in an entire area, attention from the local utility company will be needed. Trade contractors are not able to help with such outages.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NEW HOMEOWNERS

As a new homeowner, we encourage you to familiarize yourself with the following information.

Electrical Shutoff: In case of electrical emergency, turn off the main circuit breaker located inside the electrical service panel. The electrical service panel is found on the outside of the home.

Water Shutoff: In case of a plumbing emergency, water shutoff valves are located in the basement of your home and at the water meter found in the street park strip.

Gas Shutoff: Gas to your home can be turned off at the natural gas meter on the side of your house. You should only use this shutoff in emergency situations, and it best to call the gas company and have them turn it back on. There are also separate shut offs at each appliance that runs on gas.

Grading and Drainage: Your home has been graded in such a manner as to keep water away from your home and otherwise comply with code requirements. Altering the grading of your homesite can restrict water surface drainage and cause structural or water damage to your home or concrete flatwork. Altering the grade and damage caused by that is not covered by warranty. In addition, maintaining this grade is a homeowner responsibility.

Concrete and Flatwork: Concrete drives, walks, and patios can be severely damaged by heavy vehicles or equipment. Do not allow heavy trucks or equipment to cross concrete flatwork. Especially during the first year of the new concrete, do not use ice melt or salt.

REQUESTING WARRANTY SERVICE

During the first year of ownership, your new home is covered by our Limited Warranty, the details of which are defined in this manual. The performance standards contained within provide the basis of our commitment of service to you. It will explain which items are covered under warranty and the procedure for requesting warranty service. We suggest that you review the appropriate section(s) of this manual before you request service. This will help determine if your request is covered by the Liberty Homes Limited Warranty or is considered to be your responsibility.

All non-emergency requests for Warranty Service must be submitted through the online warranty request form (see instructions below). Requests not submitted through the online form will not be honored, this includes, but is not limited to, email and verbal requests made to Liberty Homes employees, subcontractor partners, and other representatives of Liberty Homes.

BEST PRACTICES

The information entered into the warranty request will be used to contact you for review, service, etc., so please make sure your name, email address, and phone number are correct and the best ones for contacting you. Attaching photo(s) or video(s) to the claim is highly recommended. This will help us to determine how your claim should be handled and expedite the process.

HOW TO SUBMIT A CLAIM

1. Visit www.libertyhomes.com and click on WARRANTY REQUEST in the menu (or use the QR Code at the end of these instructions to open the page on your smart phone).



2. Select the Warranty Area in which you need repairs and click Next. (Note: If you need more than one repair, either in the same area or in different areas, please fill out a separate request for each repair needed.)

Warranty Areas *

Your warranty request is related to the following (check only one):

- ☐ Appliances
- ☐ Cabinets
- ☐ Countertops
- ☐ Drywall
- ☐ Fireplaces
- ☐ Flooring
- ☐ Paint
- ☐ Foundation
- ☐ Concrete
- ☐ Doors/Hardware
- ☐ Grading
- ☐ Exteriors: Stucco, Cement, Rock
- ☐ HVAC
- ☐ Electrical
- ☐ Garage Door
- ☐ Windows
- ☐ Siding
- ☐ Roof
- ☐ Plumbing
- ☐ Railings
- ☐ Vents

NEXT

3. Please read the information on common problems and solutions carefully and take the steps recommended if they address your specific issue. If these suggestions are not relevant to your repair or if they do not work for you, check the box next to the word Yes under Submit Warranty Request? and click the Next button (Note: The Next button will not appear until you check the box next to Yes).

Electrical:
If a light is out, first check the bulb and replace that. If the light still won't turn on, you'll check to see if it is on a GFCI outlet and find out if it was tripped. If so, reset it to restore power to the plug. If that doesn't restore power to the plug, check the breaker box to see if the breaker has tripped or been flipped off.

Submit Warranty Request? *

☒ Yes

I have read the information about what is and isn't covered in regards to my home issue(s) and would like to continue to the warranty request form.

PREVIOUSNEXT

4. Enter your information into the form. Please double-check your contact info to ensure it is accurate, include as much detail on the service needed as possible, and if you have photos or a video, please include those to help expedite the process. Then click Submit.

Your Information:
Your Name *

Email Address *

Phone Number *

Property Information:
Home Address *

City *

If You Know, Please Include:
Subdivision Name

Lot Number

Closing Date

Service Needed *

Photos/Video of Repair Area

0/100 MB (100 MB)
SELECT FILES

Maximum of 10 photos/videos. Each file must be 7MB or smaller. Accepted file types: .jpg, .jpeg, .gif, .png, .liff, .pdf, .doc, .mp4, .mov

PREVIOUSSUBMIT

5. After you hit Submit, a thank you page will come up, indicating your warranty request has successfully gone through and is in Liberty Homes' system. You will also receive an email confirmation*.



***To ensure you receive email confirmations, please add info@libertyhomes.com and libertyhomesutah@gmail.com to your safe senders list.**

ACCESS LIBERTY HOMES WARRANTY PAGE BY SMART PHONE:

Open your camera and point it at this QR Code – that will open a web page that will take you to the Warranty Request page.



WARRANTY CLAIM PROCESSING

When we receive your warranty request, we may contact you to discuss your claim and may schedule an inspection appointment to determine if the item falls within the scope of your warranty and what steps need to be taken next. Scheduling an inspection appointment is not an approval of the warranty claim nor is it a guarantee that the claim will be approved and work will be done.

When claims are approved, Liberty Homes, in its sole and absolute discretion, will determine whether a trade contractor will be assigned to a valid warranty claim or if it is an in-house/builder item to be handled by Liberty Homes.

If a trade contractor is required to perform repairs, we will send your request to them, and the trade contractor will contact you directly to schedule an appointment.

ACCESS TO YOUR HOME

For all appointments that require interior access to your home, an adult age 18 or older who is authorized to admit service workers, make service-related decisions, and sign any paperwork must be present. We do not accept, nor do we allow our trade contractors to accept your keys and gain access without an adult present.

For appointments on exterior items, an adult may not be required to be present, depending on the circumstances. This can be determined when making the appointment.

REPAIR APPOINTMENTS/WORK HOURS

Both Liberty Homes and our trade partners operate during normal business hours, Monday through Friday. Please plan for your normal, non-emergency warranty repairs to be performed Monday through Friday during normal business hours. If you do not provide access to your home during normal business hours to inspect, repair, or conduct tests on your home as may be required to evaluate or repair a defect, you are relieving Liberty Homes of all responsibility to make repairs to or replace any defect under this warranty. Liberty Homes, its employees, and trade partners will make every effort to schedule appointments within reason, but if you do not respond or fail to be available for scheduled appointments, Liberty Homes will be relieved of responsibility to repair or replace defects.

Both Liberty Homes and our trade partners will try to schedule appointments and work as soon as possible. However, factors outside of our control may delay appointments and/or work. Any valid warranty claim submitted during the one-year warranty period will be honored, even if work is still needed after the warranty has expired.

Workers who come to your home to do warranty repairs are not authorized to do work other than what was originally requested and approved by Liberty Homes. They also are not authorized to determine validity of warranty claims – only Liberty Homes can evaluate and determine if something falls within the scope of this Limited Warranty. Any such information provided by workers who have been contracted by Liberty Homes or a subcontractor to do work on your original request is purely informational in nature and non-binding in regards to coverage under warranty and any future work that may be requested. All requests must be submitted in writing to Liberty Homes through the online warranty request form. Verbal requests to Liberty Homes employees and other individuals that come to your home to inspect items or do work are not valid requests for warranty service and will not be honored.

REPAIR VS. REPLACE

If a warranty-covered defect occurs and is reported during the warranty period, Liberty Homes will repair or replace with the sole option of selecting the methods and materials used in the corrective measure.

The decision to “Repair or Replace” is solely that of Liberty Homes or its representatives.

MODIFICATIONS AFTER HOME DELIVERY AND INSTALLS NOT DONE BY LIBERTY HOMES

If any item modified after delivery of your home or any improvement, fixture, or property not constructed/installed by Liberty Homes requires removal during the repair of a warrantable item, it is your responsibility to remove and/or pay for the removal. Liberty Homes is not responsible for damage to or removal of modified items, improvements, fixtures, or property not constructed/installed by Liberty Homes.

SOMETIMES WE BREAK OUR OWN RULES ... IN YOUR FAVOR

Our criteria for qualifying warranty repairs is based on typical industry practices in our region. Please note that we reserve the right to exceed these guidelines if common sense or individual circumstances make that appropriate. This does not mean that we are obligated to exceed all guidelines to a similar degree in all circumstances or for all homeowners.

SOMETIMES WE SAY NO

With a product as complex as a home, viewpoints can differ regarding which tasks are your responsibility and which are those of Liberty Homes. If Liberty Homes determines your warranty request is a homeowner maintenance item, we will review the maintenance steps with you and offer whatever informational assistance we can. Providing normal maintenance for your home is your responsibility, but we are willing to provide professional advice.

LIMITED WARRANTY

THE MOST COMMON REQUESTS THAT ARE NOT COVERED UNDER YOUR WARRANTY

Caulking

Shrinking of caulking is inevitable. For best results, re-caulk interior and exterior locations regularly. This is especially important for wet areas.

Concrete

Concrete slabs will crack due to expansion and contraction. This is normal and not covered under your Limited Warranty. Do not use ice melt products on your new concrete, which can cause chipping or flaking and is not covered under your Limited Warranty.

Cosmetic Damage

There is no warranty coverage for cosmetic damage, including, but not limited to, cracks, dings, dents, and scratches. Items identified at or before the Homebuyer Orientation and noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form are corrected as part of the closing process and signed off on that form, not as part of the Limited Warranty.

Frozen Pipes

Winterizing your backflow preventer, plumbing, and sprinkler system prevents frozen pipes and harmful water damage. It is your responsibility to perform this yearly maintenance.

Furnace Filter

It is important to change your furnace filter regularly (most manufacturers suggest at least every three months, but depending on usage and conditions, you may need to change it more often). Your furnace will work more efficiently during the winter and summer, you will save on your utility bills, and you will extend the life of your furnace.

Garage Door

Keep objects away from your garage door sensors. You may need to adjust them if they become misaligned. Lubricate the door rollers and hinges every three months to ensure noise-free operation.

Ice Damming

Ice dams on roofs and in gutters are caused by extreme weather conditions. You may need to install heat cables to keep water flowing through your gutters. This will prevent overflow and ice buildup.

Paint

The only paint covered included in the Limited Warranty is areas that require paint-touch ups as a result of warranty work (for example, painting after drywall patching). Items identified at or before the Homebuyer Orientation and noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form are corrected as part of the closing process and signed off on that form, not as part of the Limited Warranty.

Stucco

Some cracking is expected with stucco exterior. This is normal for most cement products. Refer to the Stucco section of this manual for additional information.

I. INTRODUCTION

We view the terms of your warranty as 1) what you can expect as our customer and 2) what your home expects from you in terms of preventive maintenance. It is our goal to help you understand how to prolong the life of your home through regular maintenance. None of the materials used in the construction of your home will last forever; however, they will last for a very long time if properly maintained.

This Introduction is general and explanatory in nature and does not create any independent warranty obligations on the part of Liberty Homes. For more information concerning the Limited Warranty provided by Liberty Homes, please refer to the following sections:

- II. The Limited Warranty
- III. The Limited Warranty Limitation of Liability
- IV. Warranty Exclusions
- V. Other Limited Warranty Terms

This Warranty is non-transferable and only applies to the original purchaser of the home.

What the Homeowner Can Expect from Liberty Homes

Subject to the terms of the Limited Warranty and the Warranty Coverage section in the pages to follow.

1. Lot Drainage - Your home has been placed on soil engineered to withstand the anticipated settlement based on soil conditions found in your area and should not settle in such a way as to create structural problems during the one (1) year warranty period.
2. Concrete Surfaces - The concrete surfaces in your home should fulfill the functions for which they were intended without excessive settlement, cracking, or secondary damage such as leaking. Since concrete is likely to crack, standards are defined in detail in the Limited Warranty which follows. (Please see the Concrete topic in the Warranty Coverage section for more details).
3. Structural Integrity - Homes are constructed by multiple people using a variety of difficult materials, so some tolerances are to be expected. What we consider to be acceptable tolerances is defined in the detailed Warranty Coverage section.

4. **Intrusion of the Elements** - Your home should not leak. Exceptions may occur, such as driving rain forcing water into vents, windows, or under doors. Cold storage rooms and basements may show some signs of dampness and are not always waterproof, but under normal circumstances your home should protect you from the intrusion of the elements.
5. **Mechanical Systems** - The systems installed in your home to provide power, water, treated air, ventilation, and waste disposal should work consistently with the Warranty Coverage section.
6. **Finished Surfaces** - Finished surfaces should maintain uniform or characteristic appearances for a reasonable period of time. Cracks or surface deterioration should be repaired as outlined in the Warranty Coverage section.
7. **Personal Property** - Liberty Homes is not responsible for removing, replacing, or paying for homeowner installed items such as fences, landscaping, sprinkler systems, light fixtures, furniture, wallpaper, appliances, fixtures, window treatments, etc., not included in the original sale of the home.

What Your Home Should Expect from You

1. Your home and lot were designed with a particular drainage pattern that will carry surface water from rain and irrigation systems away from your foundation. Water should not be directed toward the foundation, either in the form of lot drainage, landscaping, or for the use of an irrigation system.
2. Concrete surfaces should be free of salts, other deicing chemicals, and excessive weight such as moving vans or storage pods. Yard drainage should be maintained in order to divert water away from concrete surfaces. This will eliminate the chance of undermining the surface and eroding the bearing soil.
3. Any structural additions to the home must be performed by professionals who understand load bearing issues. Local municipalities require permits for building additions to ensure that the structural integrity is maintained.
4. Caulk is used to seal windows and doors. This will require inspection on a regular basis and replacement when necessary.
5. The mechanical systems of your home are designed for normal use. Placing above average demands on them, such as plugging several electrical devices into one circuit, will present problems. Periodic maintenance (i.e. furnace filters) will allow the home to perform as designed.
6. Wood products in the home require cleaning and sealing to prevent problems such as water penetration and exposure to the elements. Painted or sealed surfaces must be cleaned and refinished on a regular basis. If these precautions are not taken, these materials will deteriorate over time.

Care and maintenance instructions are included in this manual for many of the components of your home. By following these instructions and manufacturers recommendations, the life of your home will be extended exponentially. You, as the homeowner, should read this Limited Warranty in its entirety to understand the protection it provides, exclusions that apply, and the performance standards which determine coverage in each case.

II. THE LIMITED WARRANTY

To the limited extent set forth herein (including but not limited to the Warranty Coverage section), Liberty Homes warrants the home for a period of one (1) year beginning on the date of settlement and expiring on the one (1) year anniversary of the date of settlement, against any "Covered Defects." "Covered Defects" are defined as defects in workmanship and/or materials that are either part of the structure or are elements of the home as supplied by Liberty Homes at the date of settlement. "Covered Defects" are more particularly described and explained in the "Warranty Coverage" section and expressly include the warranty exclusions set forth in part IV. The existence of a "Covered Defect" does not constitute a breach of this Limited Warranty; however, Liberty Homes may be obligated to repair or replace the item to conform to the Warranty Coverage, as further set forth herein. No repair shall extend the term of this Limited Warranty as to any "Covered Defect," including the "Covered Defect" that was the subject of the repair.

This is not an insurance policy, a maintenance agreement, or service contract, but a definition of what you, as the homeowner, have a right to expect in terms of warranties. If you have a mortgage on your home, your lender may insist that you have a homeowners' insurance policy. This warranty is not a homeowners' insurance policy, and it will not satisfy the lender's requirement.

III. THE LIMITED WARRANTY LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

It is understood and agreed that Liberty Homes' liability, whether in contract, tort, statute, negligence, or otherwise, is limited to the remedy provided in this Limited Warranty. Liberty Homes' obligations under this Limited Warranty, and under the purchase agreement, are limited to repair and replacement of the covered defect only, as and to the extent provided in the Warranty Coverage section. Under no circumstances shall Liberty Homes be liable for any special, indirect, or consequential damages. This includes, without limitation, any damages based on a claimed decrease in the value of the home, bodily injury, damage to personal property, or damage to real property which is not part of the home, even if Liberty Homes has been advised of the possibility of such damages. This Limited Warranty is the only warranty applicable to the purchase of this home. To the extent permitted by law, all other warranties, express or implied, including, but not limited to, all implied warranties of fitness, merchantability, or habitability, are disclaimed and excluded. You acknowledge and accept such disclaimer and agree to waive any and all rights you may have under such representations and warranties, to the extent permitted by law. Except for the warranties provided in this Limited Warranty, you assume the risk of any and all damages hereafter occurring in or appearing on the property or within your home and other improvements constructed thereon regardless of the cause thereof. Your acceptance of the foregoing disclaimer is partially in consideration of the amount of the purchase price of the home, which is lower than it would be if Liberty Homes was to be held responsible for any such disclaimed warranties or representations by virtue of said express or implied representations or warranties.

Important notes

In the event of any inconsistency between this Limited Warranty and the Warranty Coverage, the terms of this Limited Warranty shall control. If a defect occurs in an item covered by this Limited Warranty, Liberty Homes will repair or replace it to the extent required to conform to the Warranty Coverage section. In the case of defects in structural elements, Liberty Homes will repair or replace the structural element to restore the load-bearing function, as designed, and make such other repairs as are necessary to return the home to a safe status. The repair of a defect will include the correction, replacement, or refinishing of only those surfaces, finishes, and coverings that were damaged by the defect and that were a part of the home when the title was first transferred by Liberty Cove @ Day Ranch, LC/Liberty Homes at the Vistas, LC/Montebello at Liberty Village, LC/Rochelle DB-3, LC/Liberty Homes at The Crossings, LC. Liberty Homes will repair or replace surfaces, finishes, and coverings constructed or installed by Liberty Homes that require removal in order for Liberty Homes to repair or replace a defect. The extent required for the repair or replacement of these surfaces, finishes, and coverings will be to approximately the same condition they were in prior to the defect, but not necessarily to a "like-new" condition. Liberty Homes cannot guarantee, nor does it warrant, exact color matches with the original surrounding area due to factors such as fading, aging, or unavailability of the original materials. Liberty Homes assigns the homeowner warranties for particular appliances and equipment furnished by the manufacturer to Liberty Homes. Liberty Homes provides no warranty on those items except where the malfunction is due to damage during installation or improper installation. If it is necessary to request warranty service in such a case, the homeowner must make a request directly to the manufacturer. In the unlikely event that the manufacturer is not responsive to the request, Liberty Homes may assist the homeowner in attempting to obtain the necessary repairs or replacements from the manufacturer but is not obligated to do so. The benefits included in this Limited Warranty are only available when service is requested according to the procedures established by Liberty Homes, as included in your warranty material. In addition, the homeowner's failure to reasonably provide access to the home during normal working hours for making repairs will relieve Liberty Homes from its obligations under this warranty. Liberty Homes' aggregate total liability shall not exceed the original contract price of the home less the lot value. Liberty Homes reserves the right to use its judgment in determining the most appropriate method of repairing warranty defects. Liberty Homes' offer to resolve an issue for which it bears no responsibility under this Limited Warranty does not create the responsibility to provide the resolution in another situation for which it bears no responsibility. Actions taken to cure defects will not extend the period of coverage specified in this Limited Warranty or any applicable statutes of limitation or repose. If actions by Liberty Homes relating to any obligations under this Limited Warranty are delayed by an event beyond its control, such performance will be excused until the delaying effects of the event are remedied. Such events include, but are not limited to, acts of God, acts of the common enemy, war, riot, civil commotion, or sovereign conduct, or acts or omissions by you or any other person not a party of this Limited Warranty.

IV. WARRANTY EXCLUSIONS

This Limited Warranty excludes the following specific items, and any other loss or damage which is not a Covered Defect. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. General home maintenance items. Please review this manual carefully for information on properly maintaining your home.
2. Cosmetic items. This includes, but is not limited to, paint, chips and nicks on all surfaces, scratches on surfaces, broken glass, spots on carpet, and cracks in grout.
3. Loss of, or damage to, any real property which is not part of the home covered by this Limited Warranty or is not included in the original purchase price of the home as stated in the closing documents.
4. Any damage to the extent it is made worse by:
 - a. Negligence, improper maintenance, or intentional or improper operation by anyone other than Liberty Homes, its agents, or Liberty Homes-hired subcontractors, including, but not limited to, damage resulting from rot, corrosion, or rust.
 - b. Failure by the homeowner or anyone other than Liberty Homes, its agents, or Liberty Homes-hired subcontractors to comply with the warranty requirements of manufacturers of appliances, fixtures, and equipment.
 - c. Failure by the homeowner to give timely notice to Liberty Homes of any defects.
 - d. Changes in the grading by anyone other than Liberty Homes, its agents, or Liberty Homes-hired subcontractors; failing to maintain the original grade; or failing to plant grass, trees, shrubs, and other landscape items at a proper distance from your home to prevent water flow towards your home.
 - e. Changes, alterations, or additions made to the home by anyone other than Liberty Homes, its agents, or Liberty Homes-hired subcontractors after the Limited Warranty commencement date. This includes repairing or attempting to repair defects without first contacting Liberty Homes.
 - f. Dampness or condensation due to the homeowner's failure to maintain adequate ventilation.
5. Loss or damage that the homeowner has not taken timely action to minimize, including failing to notify Liberty Homes in a timely manner.
6. Any defect caused by, or resulting from, materials or work supplied by someone other than Liberty Homes, its agents, or Liberty Homes-hired subcontractors.
7. Normal wear and tear or normal deterioration.
8. Loss or damage not otherwise excluded under this Limited Warranty which does not constitute a defect in the construction of the home by Liberty Homes, its agents, or subcontractors.
9. Loss or damage caused by, or resulting either directly or indirectly from, accidents, riots and civil commotion, theft, vandalism, fire, explosion, power surges or failures, smoke, water escape, falling objects, aircrafts, vehicles, acts of God, lightning, windstorm, hail, tornado, hurricane, mudslide, earthquake, and volcanic eruption.
10. Loss or damage caused directly or indirectly by flood, wind-driven water, surface water, overflow of a body of water, or spray from any of these (whether or not driven by wind), water which backs up from sewers or drains, changes in the water table which were not reasonably foreseeable at the time of construction, or water below the surface of the ground (including water which exerts pressure on,

- or seeps or leaks through, a building, sidewalk, driveway, foundation, swimming pool or other structure), wetlands, springs, or aquifers.
11. Loss or damage caused by soil movement. Including, but not limited to, subsidence, expansion, or lateral movement of the soil (including flood and earthquake), which is covered by any other insurance or for which compensation is granted by state or federal legislation.
 12. Loss or damage to the home, persons, or property directly or indirectly caused by termites, other insects, birds, vermin, rodents, or other wild or domestic animals.
 13. Loss or damage resulting from the use of the home for non-residential purposes.
 14. Any condition which does not result in actual damage to the home. Including, but not limited to, uninhabitability or health risk due to the presence or consequence of electromagnetic fields (emfs), radon gas, mold, formaldehyde or other pollutants and contaminants, or the presence of hazardous or toxic materials.
 15. Bodily injury or damage to personal property.
 16. Loss or damage caused by, or resulting from, abnormal loading of structural elements by the homeowner, which exceeds design loads as mandated by codes.
 17. Consequential damages including, but not limited to, costs of shelter, food, transportation, moving and storage, any other expenses related to inconvenience or relocation during repairs to the home, and any diminution of the market value of the home.
 18. Any appliance, equipment, or other item in your home which is a "consumer product" for the purposes of the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act (15 U.S.C. 2301 through 2312), including, but not limited to, the dishwasher, range, microwave, or garbage disposal is hereby excluded from the coverage of this Limited Warranty.
 19. Color Match: Color matches of materials used in original construction or in repair or replacement of defective items are excluded from coverage. This is due to uncontrollable factors such as dye lot, weathering, normal wear and tear, or product unavailability. This includes, but is not limited to, brick, cabinets, concrete, tile, cultured marble and other countertop materials, floor coverings, grout or mortar, paint, roof tile, stain on any wood surface, and stucco.
 20. Any defect first occurring or discovered after the applicable term of the warranty expires.

V. OTHER LIMITED WARRANTY TERMS

1. The Limited Warranty set forth herein is provided to the original purchaser of the home only and is non-transferable. The Limited Warranty applies only to the use of the home as the initial homeowner's place of residence.
2. Notwithstanding any language to the contrary set out in this Limited Warranty, nothing in this Limited Warranty shall be construed to limit or disclaim any warranty, whether statutory or implied at common law, which under state law cannot be lawfully limited or disclaimed.
3. This Limited Warranty shall be interpreted and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Utah.
4. This Limited Warranty cannot be modified, altered, or amended in any way except by a formal written instrument by Liberty Homes.
5. If any provision of this Limited Warranty is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, that determination will not affect the validity of the remaining provisions.

AIR CONDITIONING

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Your home's cooling system can help make your home more comfortable, but improper use can make the system inefficient. The following tips and suggestions are provided to help you maximize your air conditioning system efficiency. Maintenance information for your air conditioner is found in the product's maintenance manual.

Time is very important in your expectations of an air conditioning system. Unlike a light bulb, which reacts instantly when you turn on a switch, the air conditioning unit only begins a process when you set the thermostat. Keeping your air conditioning unit running all day will allow the system to moderate temperatures more effectively. If your system is turned off when you leave for the day, it will take longer for the system to reach the correct temperature when it is turned back on. For example, if your house reaches 90 degrees during the day, the cooling system will take longer to cool off your home when you turn it on that night. Please note that turning the thermostat lower than the temperature you desire will not cause the air conditioner to cool faster; in fact, it can cause damage if turned too low. Instead of turning the cooling system on and off, use a programmable or smart thermostat to adjust temperatures. This will allow you to set it at a higher temperature during times you are away to save energy but also not have your home get too hot for the system to be effective later. Your home came equipped with a programmable thermostat. Please refer to the manufacturer's instructions for details on setting up programs.

Filter

Change the filter regularly. A dirty filter reduces air flow and could cause the unit to "freeze up." Most air conditioners require the filter be replaced every 30 days during heavy use.

Adjust Vents

Maximize air flow to occupied parts of your home by adjusting the vents. Likewise, when the seasons change, readjust them for comfortable heating and cooling.

Compressor

Maintain the air conditioning compressor in a level position to prevent inefficient operation and damage to the equipment (see also Grading and Drainage). Make sure that all plants and debris are cleared away from around the compressor and regularly check that none of the lines are leaking. Check your product's maintenance manual for recommendations on covers and other maintenance requirements.

Doors, Windows, Blinds, Drapes

Your home air conditioning system is a closed system, which means that the interior air is continually recycled and cooled until the desired air temperature is reached. Warm outside air disrupts the system and makes cooling impossible. Therefore, you should

keep all windows and doors closed while the unit is running. Even the heat from the sun shining through windows can be intense enough to overcome the cooling effect of the air conditioning unit. For best results, close all blinds and drapes on these windows.

Ductwork Noise

The popping or booming noise is the natural result of expansion and contraction of the ductwork system. It may not be possible to eliminate completely. Liberty Homes will attempt to adjust loud "oil canning" noise when possible.

Modifications

If you wish to make any modifications, we recommend contacting the HVAC company listed on the Emergency Phone Numbers list in this handbook. Doing modifications yourself or having another HVAC technician modify your system during the warranty period will void that portion of your Limited Warranty.

Temperature Variations

Temperatures may vary from room to room and floor to floor by several degrees Fahrenheit. This is due to such variables as floor plan, orientation of the home on the lot, type and use of window coverings, and traffic through the home.

For more comfortable living, turn the fan switch at the thermostat to the "on" position to continually cycle air through your home. The blower motor will run continuously, actually extending the life of the unit. Heating and cooling will only start up when the thermostat calls for a temperature increase or decrease.

TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

Air conditioner not working properly or at all? Even if these do not resolve the problem, checking the following items before calling for service can be useful to the service provider:

- The thermostat is set to "cool," and the temperature is set below the room temperature. If using a programmable thermostat, check to make sure the temperature hasn't been held at a higher temperature, which will override any programming. See your thermostat's manual for more information on programming and holding temperatures.
- The filter is clean to allow airflow.
- Blower panel cover is installed correctly. This panel compresses a button that tells the blower it is safe to operate (similar to a dryer's door). If the panel is not properly installed and the button is not pushed in, the HVAC unit will not operate.
- The breakers on the main electrical panel are on. (Remember: if a breaker trips, you must turn it from the tripped position to the off position before you can turn it back on)
- The 220 switch on the outside wall near the air conditioner is on.
- The switch on the side of the HVAC unit is on.
- The vents in the individual rooms are open.

- Air returns are unobstructed.
- Air conditioner has not frozen from overuse or dirty filters.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Liberty Homes will install air conditioning systems according to local building codes, as well as to engineering designs of the particular floor plan. Because of variables specific to each home, including, but not limited to, floor plan, lot placement, window locations, and the direction home faces, specific system specifications may vary from home to home, even in seemingly similar homes.

The air conditioning system should maintain a temperature of 78 degrees or a differential of 15 degrees from the outside temperature, measured in the center of each room at a height of five feet above the floor. Lower temperature settings are often possible, but neither the manufacturer nor Liberty Homes guarantee this.

Compressor

The air conditioning compressor must be in a level position to operate correctly. If it settles, take the necessary precautions to eliminate it from settling, such as adjust and maintain grade. See also Grading and Drainage.

Modifications

Any warranty otherwise provided for the HVAC system is voided upon person(s) changing, modifying, adding to, or tampering with the HVAC system in any way. For example, basement additions which “tie-in” to existing HVAC system, ductwork, etc., void the HVAC portion of this warranty.

Non-emergency

Lack of air conditioning service is not an emergency. Air conditioning contractors in our region respond to air conditioning service requests during normal business hours and in the order received.

Thermostat Changes

Many homeowners choose to upgrade their thermostat after settling into their home. If you want to do this, it is recommended you hire a professional to do the work. Improper installation could result in damage to your air conditioner or cause it to not work properly and may void the warranty on your air conditioner. Thermostats not installed by Liberty Homes and any resulting problems and damage caused by thermostats not installed by Liberty Homes are not covered under the Limited Warranty.

APPLIANCES

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

The appliances in your home were selected for their durability, ease of use, and appearance. You will be provided with owner's manuals for each appliance in your home during your final orientation. We recommend that you study the use and care sections of these manuals prior to using your appliances. You should also fill out and mail the warranty cards provided for each appliance or visit the manufacturers' websites to register them.

Refrigerators Not Installed by Liberty Homes

Many homeowners choose to purchase and install a refrigerator on their own after moving in. Prior to purchasing a refrigerator, be sure to measure the opening carefully, side to side, depth, and from the upper cabinet to the flooring. When shopping for refrigerators, look at the space requirements when doors are open. Many fridges require additional space for the doors to open, so while the outside dimensions of a fridge may fit your opening, it may not allow the doors to open properly. Manufacturer's literature includes both the outside dimensions and the space requirements for opening doors. Liberty Homes is not responsible for items purchased and installed by another source that do not fit. Nor does the Limited Warranty cover scratches, dents, and other damage that occur to the refrigerator or cabinets, countertops, walls, and other materials in the home during the installation process.

TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

Before calling for service, try the following:

- Check the electrical panel for possible tripped breakers.
- Check all GFCI outlets in home to ensure they haven't tripped.
- Check that the appliance is plugged in.
- Make sure the door is closed and locked on the dishwasher.
- Make sure the water supply is turned on to the dishwasher or washing machine.
- If your garbage disposal jams, use a hex wrench on the bottom of the disposal to turn the shaft and dislodge the jam. **Make sure the switch is off.**
- Check the electrical reset button on the garbage disposal.
- If a gas appliance isn't working, make sure pilot light is lit.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Appliance warranties are provided by the manufacturer. We confirm that all appliance surfaces are in acceptable condition during your orientation. We assign all appliance warranties to you, effective on the date of closing.

For warranty or service questions contact the manufacturer directly. Most appliances installed by Liberty Homes are either LG or Whirlpool. Check your appliances and/or the owner's manual to determine which company to contact for warranty service:

- LG Warranty Line: 800-243-0000
- Whirlpool Warranty Line: 866-333-4591

Be prepared to provide the model and serial number of the appliance along with the date your home closed. **Your closing documents are your proof of purchase** on appliances installed by Liberty Homes.

	Model Number	Serial Number
Range		
Range Hood		
Cooktop		
Wall Oven(s)		
Dishwasher		
Refrigerator		
Freezer		
Microwave		
Disposal		
Washer		
Dryer		

With problems regarding your appliance, make sure everything is working properly before calling for professional help. **If you suspect a gas leak, turn off the gas immediately.**

If an appliance needs to be disconnected for other warranty work, Liberty Homes, its employees, and subcontractor partners will not be able to disconnect it, and you need to reach out to a professional to do this. This is to protect both you and Liberty Homes, its employees, and subcontractor partners and to preserve any warranty coverage on the appliance. Liberty Homes, its employees, and subcontractor partners will not disconnect, move, or work in any way on any appliance that was not part of the original home when it closed.

ATTIC ACCESS

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

The attic space is neither designed nor intended for storage. If the insulation is compacted or compressed, the R-value can be significantly reduced. We provide access to this area for maintenance of mechanical equipment that may traverse the attic space. When you perform needed tasks in the attic, use caution and avoid stepping off wood members onto the drywall. This can result in personal injury or damage to the ceiling below. Your Limited Warranty does not cover such injury or damage.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Liberty Homes and the local building department inspect the attic before your closing to confirm insulation meets local building standards and codes. No warranty is offered for attic use as storage.

BASEMENTS

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Many homes offered by Liberty Homes include an unfinished basement. If you decide to perform additional construction in the basement, obtain guidelines from a licensed engineer, obtain a building permit, and comply with all codes and safety requirements. Liberty Homes does not warrant that you will be able to obtain such a permit because of the possibility that building codes may change.

We also recommend using professionals to do the work to ensure proper construction that does not damage your home or the systems within it. If you are still within your one-year warranty with Liberty Homes, work done on the basement may void warranty coverage on areas affected by it, including, but not limited to, the electrical, HVAC, and plumbing systems. We recommend using the subcontractors listed on the emergency service page for any work in these areas to ensure your warranty is not voided.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Liberty Homes offers no warranty coverage for basements finished after the home has closed and not part of the original home purchase.

Access

When a basement is finished, it can close off access to areas needed for future repairs, and repairs may no longer be possible due to access being restricted by drywall and other finishes. An example of this is when drywall is added to the ceiling of a basement, restricting access to the framing and subfloor of the floor above it to repair floor squeaks. Liberty Homes will not remove material to perform repairs in such instances.

Modifications

If during the process of finishing the basement, you or a contractor you hire modifies existing systems, finishes, or any other item included in the original purchase of the home, the Limited Warranty for those items will be voided. See Air Conditioning, Electrical, Heating, and Plumbing for additional information and best practices.

CABINETS

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Your selection sheets are your record of the brand, style, and color of cabinets in your home.

With proper care and maintenance your cabinets will last for many years. Care and maintenance on your cabinets will depend on the material and finish you selected. Following are some general guidelines. For additional info, see the manufacturer's warranty/care instructions.

General Cabinet Care and Maintenance

- Remove spills promptly to avoid permanent stains. Use a blotting action with a clean, soft cloth.
- Heat and steam can damage cabinetry. Avoid using appliances such as toasters, crockpots, and coffee makers directly below your upper wall cabinets. The steam and/or heat can cause the finish to deteriorate.
- Do not hang heavy items from handles of the cabinets to prevent hinges from becoming loose and/or damage to the finish of the door.
- Do not allow cabinets to come into repeated contact with water.

Hinges, Guides, Pulls

- The most common issue with cabinets is door alignment. Your cabinets come standard with an easily adjustable hinge which allows for both vertical and horizontal alignment functions. One screw lifts the door, the other tightens the door.
- If cabinet hinges catch or drawer glides become sluggish, use a small amount of silicone lubricant on the moving parts. Open and close the door or drawer several

times to work the lubricant in. Be sure to wipe off any excess lubricant with a clean, soft cloth.

- Check the screws in the hinges, door guides, and door pulls regularly to be sure they are secure. Do not overtighten.

Natural Wood/Wood Veneer

If you selected wood or wood veneer cabinets, expect differences in grain and color between and within the cabinet components. This is due to natural variations in the wood and the way wood accepts stain. This is considered to be normal and is part of wood's appeal. All hardwood is sensitive to light, and the color will naturally deepen as it ages. Your finish may vary from the samples, as the samples have been exposed to light for a longer period of time.

- Use high quality wood care products and techniques used in fine furniture periodically. Your local hardware store can provide you with several products and information to care for your wood cabinets. Follow instructions on the product for the best result, including how often to use it. Overusing products can lead to excess build-up.
- Do not use products that contain lemon oil or ammonia as they will damage the finish. Avoid using paste wax as it will build up a yellow color over time. Never use scrubbing pads or abrasive cleaners.
- Minor nicks or scratches can be covered with a putty stick. These come in several different colors and are available at most home improvement stores.

Painted Cabinets

- Cleaning should be done using a slightly damp lint-free cloth. A highly diluted mild detergent, such as Dawn dish soap, may be used in soiled areas. Any excess water should be removed immediately and dried thoroughly.
- Care should be taken to keep any excess water or moisture away from your painted cabinets. Never use a steamer or steam cleaner on or around any wood surface. Any excess water should be removed immediately and dried thoroughly. Water that is allowed to seep into the joints or open end grains may cause wood to prematurely expand and could cause the paint to flake or chip.
- It is expected with painted cabinetry that the joints of the doors and face frames may show. Because wood naturally expands and contracts, you may see hairline cracks in the finish surface at joints in both doors and face frames. These are normal and do not affect the strength of the door or face frames. Although they may not be prevalent when the product is new, over time as the wood takes in and expels moisture, the joints may start to show. This is not considered a defect, as it is a characteristic of the wood.
- The end grains on doors and drawer fronts may also show through the paint.
- Painted cabinets also tend to show chips, nicks, and dings more readily than stained cabinetry.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

During the orientation, we will confirm that all cabinet parts are installed correctly and that their surfaces are in acceptable condition. Liberty Homes will replace or repair significant items noted on Home Owner Orientation Inspection form, and those will be signed off as completed on the form. Items requiring special lighting or viewing from specific angles to be visible will not be changed.

Alignment

Doors, drawer fronts, and handles should be level and even.

Crown Molding

Crown molding will often look as if it is a different color from the cabinets. This is due to lighting and the slight angle on crown compared with the vertical facing doors. This is more prevalent on white or off-white cabinets. The color of crown molding and cabinets is confirmed at installation. There is no warranty for crown molding that appears to be a different color.

Heat and Water Damage

Damage caused by heat or water is not covered by the Limited Warranty. Avoid using appliances that put off heat or steam near your cabinets and remove water and excess moisture from cabinets immediately to prevent damage.

Operation

Cabinets should operate properly under normal use.

Separations

If gaps between cabinets and the ceiling or cabinets and the walls exceed 1/8 inch, Liberty Homes will schedule a visit to investigate the possible cause of the gap and if it qualifies for repair. However, this visit does NOT guarantee the gap will be repaired. That determination will be made solely by Liberty Homes. Locations behind appliances are excluded from any repairs.

Warping

If doors or drawer fronts warp in excess of 1/4 inch within 24 inches, Liberty Homes will schedule a visit to investigate the possible cause of the warping and if it qualifies for repair or replacement. However, this visit does NOT guarantee the warped door or drawer front will be repaired or replaced. That determination will be made solely by Liberty Homes. Warping or other damage caused by heat or moisture is not covered by the Limited Warranty.

Wood Grain

Readily noticeable variations in wood grain and color are normal in all wood or wood veneer selections. Replacements are not made due to such variations.

Painted Cabinets

It is expected with painted cabinetry that the joints of the doors and face frames may show. Since wood naturally expands and contracts, the joints on a door or face frame may do the same. You may see hairline cracks in the finish surface at the joints in both doors and face frames. These joints are normal and do not affect the strength of the door or face frames. Although it may not be prevalent when the product is new, over time as the wood takes in and expels moisture, the joints may start to show. This is not considered a defect; it is a characteristic of wood. There is no warranty coverage for hairline cracks or visible joints on doors and face frames of painted cabinets.

The end grain on doors and drawer fronts may also show through the paint and is considered normal.

The construction seams where two cabinets meet may be more visible on painted cabinets compared to stained cabinets and have a higher tendency to show chips, nicks, and dings.

No type of steam or steam cleaner should be used to clean cabinets or come in contact with cabinets, as loose or peeling paint caused by heat and moisture is not covered under this warranty.

CARPET

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Your selection sheets provide a record of the brand, style, and color of carpet in your home. Please retain this information for future reference. The color and texture of the carpet installed may differ from the original sample due to differences in dye lot. This is normal and not a warrantable item.

Refer to the various manufacturers' recommendations for additional information on the care of your floor coverings.

Cleaning

You can add years to the life of your flooring with regular care. Carpet wears out because of foot traffic and dirt particles that get trampled deep into the pile beyond the suction of the vacuum. The dirt particles wear down the fibers like sandpaper and dull the carpet.

The most important thing you can do to protect your carpet is to vacuum it frequently. You should vacuum at least one or two times per week and even more in high traffic areas. We recommend that your vacuum cleaner be equipped with a brush or beater bar, which agitates the pile and is more effective in bringing dirt to the surface for easy removal. The exception to this is shag styled products with longer yarns, which can wrap

around a rotating brush. For these styles, suction-only vacuums are recommended. For your vacuum to conform to the highest industry standards, make sure it is certified through the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) Seal of Approval/Green Label Vacuum Cleaner Program.

Wipe spills and clean stains immediately. For the best result, blot or dab any spill or stain with a clean white cloth or clean white paper towel. Avoid rubbing spills and stains. Blot the spill from the outer edge inward so the spill does not spread. Use a stain and soil remover that is approved by the CRI Seal of Approval certification, which will help you avoid cleaners with chemicals that may permanently damage your carpet. Before using a stain remover or cleaning solution, test on an inconspicuous area of the carpet, such as in a closet, to check for any undesirable effects. Apply a cleaning solution sparingly, then blot the cleaning solution with a clean white cloth or clean white paper towel. Rinse the cleaning solution with water and a sponge until the spot does not feel sticky. Make sure to dry the area thoroughly. Placing several layers of white towels over the spot and weighing them down with a heavy object that will not transfer color, such as a plastic jug of water, is an effective way to remove moisture. Always follow the directions on any cleaning solution you use.

Have your carpet professionally cleaned regularly. A good timeline is usually after 18 months in your home and then once a year after that, but you may need to clean more frequently in high-traffic areas. Carpet manufacturers recommend only hot water extraction, utilizing carpet cleaning products, equipment, and systems certified through the CRI Seal of Approval Program. Non-approved cleaning products and topical treatments applied by you or by a professional carpet cleaner may result in damage to your carpet that will not be covered by warranty.

Crushing

Furniture and traffic may crush a carpet's pile fibers. Frequent vacuuming in high-traffic areas and glides or cups under heavy pieces of furniture can help prevent this. Change direction of vacuuming often.

Dents

Dents from furniture or other heavy objects will occur. Shift location of furniture from time to time. Brush dented area or use a grooming tool to loosen and stand up the mashed tufts. Using a steam iron, steam the dented area lightly and brush up the tufts with your fingertips. **Do not let the iron touch the carpet.**

Fading

All carpets will slowly lose some color due to natural and artificial forces in the environment. You can delay this process by frequently removing soil with vacuuming, regularly changing air filters in heating and air conditioning systems, keeping humidity and room temperature from getting too high, and reducing sunlight exposure with window coverings.

Pilling

Pilling or small balls of fiber can appear on your carpet, depending on the type of carpet fiber and the type of traffic. If this occurs, use scissors to clip off the pills. If they cover a large area, seek professional advice.

Preventing Dirt

Try to keep dirt/soil off of carpets as much as possible. To do this, use mats at entrances and other areas to keep outside dirt and moisture from being tracked onto the carpet. Clean these mats frequently. Also, keep your sidewalks and entrances free of excessive dirt.

Seams

Carpet usually comes in 12-foot widths, making seams necessary in most rooms.

Visible seams are not a defect unless they have been improperly made or the material has a defect, making the seam appear more pronounced than normal. The more dense and uniform the carpet texture, the more visible the seams will be.

Carpet styles with low, tight naps result in the most visible seams. Seams are never more visible than when the carpet is first installed. Usually with time, use, and vacuuming the seams become less visible.

Shading

Shading is an inherent quality of fine-cut pile carpets. Household traffic causes pile fibers to assume different angles, and as a result, the carpet appears darker or lighter in these areas. A good vacuuming, which makes the pile all go in the same direction, provides a temporary remedy.

Shedding

New carpeting, especially pile, sheds bits of fiber for a short period of time. Eventually these loose fibers are removed by vacuuming. Shedding usually occurs more with wool carpeting than with nylon or other synthetics.

Stains

No carpet is stain-proof. Although your carpet manufacturer designates your carpet as stain-resistant, some substances may still cause permanent staining. These include hair dyes, shoe polish, paints, and India ink. Some substances destroy or change the color of carpets, including bleach, acne medication and other creams and lotions with benzoyl peroxide, drain cleaner, plant food, insecticide, and food or beverages with strongly colored natural dyes.

Refer to the manufacturer's warranty and follow their recommendations for maintenance and spot removal. Failure to follow the manufacturer's guidelines may void your warranty.

Pretest any spot-removal solution in an inconspicuous area before using it in a noticeable space. Apply several drops of the solution, hold a white tissue on the area, and count to ten. Examine both tissue and carpet for dye transfer and then check for carpet damage.

Static

Cooler temperatures outside often contribute to static electricity inside. To avoid the problem, look for carpets made with antistatic. You can also install a humidifier to help control static build-up.

Tack Strips

Carpet is installed using a tack strip along the perimeter. This is the industry standard and is necessary to keep the carpet in place. If you would like to bend these edges down for children or pets in traffic areas, you may lightly tap them down. Keep in mind, ***this may void your warranty*** if it needs to be pulled up to re-stretch, etc., as it may cause the carpet to tear in those areas.

Tufts

If an occasional tuft lifts above the surface, simply snip it with scissors; do not pull the tuft out.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

During your orientation, we will confirm that your carpet is in an acceptable condition. We will correct stains, spots, or other cosmetic defects noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form by cleaning, patching, or replacing. Such items will be signed off as completed on the form. Liberty Homes is not responsible for dye lot variations if replacements are made.

Edges

Edges of carpet along moldings and edges of stairs should be held firmly in place. In some areas, metal or other edging material may be used where carpet meets another floor covering.

You may notice the sharp edges of the “tack strip” around all edges and stairs, this is not a defect, but is how the carpet is held in place. The sharp points can be tapped down with a hammer, but ***this may void the warranty*** if it needs to be pulled up to re-stretch, etc., as it may cause the carpet to tear in those areas.

Modifications and Wear and Tear

Any modification made to the carpet, including, but not limited to, carpet being pulled up by someone other than the original installer to install wires, stretch it, or fix a floor squeak, will void your warranty. Wear and tear, including dragging heavy objects over carpet or using rolling chairs or furniture directly on the carpet, may void any warranty. Take precautions, such as using a chair pad, to prevent excess wearing that is not covered under warranty.

Seams

Carpet seams will be visible. Liberty Homes will inspect any visible gaps or fraying to investigate the possible cause and if it qualifies for repair.

CAULKING

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Caulking is one item that should be kept high on your list of preventative maintenance. Especially in our winter climate, time and weather can cause caulking to dry out and shrink, and it is normal for backsplashes to separate from the wall with the differing interior and exterior temperatures. When caulking dries out or shrinks, it no longer provides a proper seal, and damage to other components may occur. As part of your routine maintenance, inspect the caulking around your sinks, tubs, countertops, cultured marble, windows, thresholds, exterior door casings, etc. If repair is needed, inexpensive caulking guns and several varieties of caulking compounds are available at home improvement stores.

Colored Caulk

Colored caulks are available through flooring and tile stores. These caulks can be used where typical tile grout may crack, such as along door thresholds or cabinetry. They come in colors that closely match most grout colors. As with any colored material, dye lots can vary.

Latex/Latex Acrylic Caulk

Latex and Latex Acrylic Caulking work best for areas that require painting. It can be smoothed with a wet finger or sponge and cleans up with soap and water.

Silicone Caulk

Silicone Caulk works best where water is present such as at the tub or sink. Some silicone caulks will not accept paint. Some siliconized caulks are water-soluble and can be smoothed with water. 100% silicone caulks are not water-soluble and will require an appropriate solvent to smooth and clean up. Ask your hardware store clerk for advice.

When caulking glass or mirrors, use only 100% silicone caulk. Other types of caulk can cause the reflective material on mirror to turn black or fail.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

During the orientation we confirm that appropriate areas are adequately caulked. Maintenance of caulked areas is your responsibility*.

All new homes go through a period of settlement, so your home may experience some minor material shrinkage, cracking, and other events which are normal and customary. Examples include small cracks in drywall and paint, and separation where dissimilar materials meet each other. For example, where moldings meet sheetrock, or where tile grout meets a sink. In most cases, paint and caulking is all that is necessary to conceal the types of blemishes that result from the natural expansion and contraction of

construction material. Because these events are normal and customary, they are not a defect or structural defect covered by this express Limited Warranty.

CERAMIC TILE

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Your selection sheets provide a record of the brand, style, and color of ceramic tile in your home. Please retain this information for future reference. Refer to the manufacturer's recommendations for additional information for care of your tile.

Cleaning

Ceramic tile is one of the easiest floor coverings to maintain. Simply vacuum when needed, and occasionally mop with warm water. Avoid adding detergent to the water. If you feel a cleaning agent is required, use a mild solution of warm water and dishwasher crystals as they will not result in a heavy lather on the grout. Rinse thoroughly.

The ceramic tile installed on walls or countertops in your home may be washed with any nonabrasive soap, detergent, or tile cleaner. Abrasive cleaners will dull the finish.

Grout Discoloration

Clean yellowed or stained grout with a fiber brush, cleanser, and water. Grout cleansers and whiteners are available at most hardware stores.

Sealing Grout

Sealing the grout is your decision and responsibility but is recommended to help maintain the grout and prevent water from seeping below the tiles. If you will be sealing your grout, it is recommended that you wait at least 30 days after installation, which will allow grout to fully cure and avoid discoloration. Once grout has been sealed, ongoing maintenance of that seal is necessary. Follow instructions on grout sealer for ongoing maintenance and timing of resealing it. Limited warranty coverage on grout that has been sealed is void.

Separations

Expect slight separations to occur in the grout between tiles and between tile and door thresholds. This is not a defect. The grout is for decorative purposes only; it does not hold the tile in place. Cracks in the grout can be filled using premixed grout purchased from flooring or hardware stores. Always follow package directions.

Caulk and grout around bathtubs or countertops may appear to be pulling up after time. This is caused by normal shrinkage of grout or caulk and shrinkage of wood members as they dry out. If this occurs, the best remedy is to purchase tub caulk or premixed grout from a hardware store. Follow directions on the container. This maintenance is important to protect the underlying surface from water damage.

Variations

Tile often varies greatly in shading, veining, and marbling with each packaged carton. This is considered a part of the inherent beauty of these products and is to be expected. In addition, individual tiles may vary in size, height, width, and thickness. As a result of these characteristics, when the product is installed it may be uneven in appearance. You may have some tiles higher than others, especially on floors. The degree of unevenness may depend largely on the quality of the subfloor as well as the product itself.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

During the orientation, we confirm that tile and grout areas are in acceptable condition. We will repair or replace cracked, badly chipped, or loose tiles noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form, and those will be signed off as completed on the form.

Cracks in grout lines that result in loose tiles or gaps in excess of 1/16 inch will be inspected by Liberty Homes to determine possible causes and if it qualifies for repair. If repair is necessary, the contractor will repair grouting *one time only*, and is not responsible for color variations or discontinued colored grout. The homeowner is responsible for re-grouting these joints after the one-time repair.

Tile lippage greater than 1/16-inch is generally considered excessive, except where the material is designed with an irregular height (such as handmade tile). If lippage exceeds these performance guidelines, Liberty Homes will schedule a visit to investigate the possible cause and if it qualifies for repair.

In the event tile requires repair, please remember that the new grout and tile may not match the color of the existing application.

CONCRETE

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

If there is one fact that homeowners need to know about concrete, it is that concrete cracks. Natural movement and shrinkage of the basement slab or any concrete slab can result in cracking. Minimize this by maintaining good drainage, being careful when landscaping so moisture doesn't reach soil around and under your home, and not planting trees too close to concrete, which can develop root systems that grow under the concrete and crack it.

Cleaning

Sweeping is recommended for keeping exterior concrete clean. If washing is necessary, do this when temperatures are moderate. Avoid washing exterior concrete slabs with cold water from an outside faucet when temperatures are high and the sun has been shining on concrete. The abrupt change in temperature can damage the surface bond of the concrete.

Cracks

As cracks occur, fix them immediately to help prevent moisture from penetrating the soil underneath. A waterproof concrete caulk, found at hardware or home improvement stores, can be used for most cracks.

Expansion Control Joints

The concrete at your home was poured using control joints. These are grooves in large slabs of concrete that help the concrete crack along predetermined, appropriate spaces. Cracks in these control joints are expected and acceptable.

Heavy Vehicles

Driving large vehicles, such as motor homes, moving vans, commercial vehicles, or delivery trucks on the concrete can cause damage. Driveways are designed and installed for conventional residential traffic only.

Ice, Snow, and Chemicals

Remove ice and snow from concrete slabs as soon as possible after snowstorms. Homeowners should be careful when de-icing their driveway or sidewalks. Experts recommend not using salt to melt ice for at least the first year and sparingly after that. Sand can be used instead for traction.

When roads are wet in the winter, try to avoid parking cars on the driveway as excess water laden with salt from the car can drip onto concrete and promote cracking and/or spalling.

Protect concrete from chemical agents such as pet urine, fertilizers, and radiator overflow, which can cause chipping.

Sealer

Liberty Homes seals your concrete during the building process. This sealer lasts for about 5 years, so you will need to reapply a sealer after that and continue to reapply based on your product choice's recommendation. So, add that to your homeowner maintenance schedule.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Cracks

There is no guarantee that the concrete will not crack. Concrete cracking will not be covered under this warranty.

Color

Concrete slabs vary in color. Liberty Homes provides no correction for this condition. When concrete is poured during colder weather conditions, Liberty Homes often uses concrete blankets to help prevent freezing. These blankets can cause color variations and/or irregular visual patterns in the concrete as it cures. These color variations and/or irregular patterns are considered normal and are not covered by the Liberty Homes one-year Limited Warranty.

Finished Floors

Liberty Homes will only correct cracks, settling, or heaving that rupture finish floor materials that we installed as part of the home as you originally purchased it.

Level Floors

Concrete and wood floors in the habitable areas of the home will be level to within 3/8 inch within any 32-inch radius with the exception of an area specifically designed to slope toward a floor drain. If floors become unlevel, Liberty Homes will schedule a visit to investigate possible causes and if it qualifies for repair. If repairs are done, Liberty Homes will repair by surface patching.

Separation

If a concrete slab separates from the home in excess of one inch, Liberty Homes will schedule a site visit to investigate the possible cause and if it qualifies for repair.

Settling or Heaving

If slabs that settle or heave in excess of two inches or if such movement results in negative drainage (toward the home) or in hazardous vertical displacement, Liberty Homes will schedule a site visit to investigate possible causes and if it qualifies for repair.

Spalling (Surface Chips)

Causes of spalling include repeated hosing of concrete for cleaning, animal urine, radiator overflow, fertilizer, uncleared snow and ice, ice-melting agents, and road salts from vehicles. Repair of spalling is a home maintenance task and is not covered under this warranty.

Edge Chipping

Edge chipping due to expansion and contraction of concrete flat work or the supporting soils is not covered under this Limited Warranty.

Standing Water

Water may stand on exterior concrete slabs for several hours after precipitation or from roof runoff. If water remains longer than 24 hours, contact Liberty Homes for a site inspection to determine possible causes and if it qualifies for repair. Standing water caused by roof runoff of melting snow or ice is not covered by the Limited Warranty.

Garage Slabs

Minor puddling is common but should not exceed 3/8 of an inch in a 32-inch radius. If a puddle exceeds these parameters, Liberty Homes will schedule a site visit to determine possible causes and if it qualifies for repair. If repairs are done, Liberty Homes will not be responsible for color variations.

Porch Caps

Water leakage into porch storage rooms from porch caps is not unusual and is not covered by this Limited Warranty. Liberty Homes will not be responsible for improper landscaping, maintenance, or negligence of the homeowner in controlling water on the porch. Acts of nature such as driving rain or snow are not covered under this warranty.

COUNTERTOPS

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Taking care of your countertops is important as it can keep them looking newer for a longer period of time. Use a cutting board when cutting or chopping. Also, protect your counter from heat and extremely hot irons, pans, and baking dishes. As a general rule, if you cannot put your hand on it, do not put it on the countertop.

Your selection sheets provide a record of what type of countertops are in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions on cleaning and care.

Cleaning

You should wash your countertops periodically with soap and water. This will prevent grease and dust build-up which dulls colors. Do not use harsh or abrasive cleaners, which can scratch the surface over time. Once a week, clean the surface with a mild chlorine bleach solution, also use this technique after cutting raw meat.

To protect your countertops from spills, coat countertop lightly with olive oil, allow time for oil to soak for a few minutes, then rub dry with a soft linen. Several thin coats will provide better protection than one heavy coat.

If you spill chemicals on your countertops, clean them up immediately. Prolonged contact with bleaches, acetone (fingernail polish remover), mineral acids, lye, copper cleaners, bluing, iodine, or dye can stain the surface, so clean up strong solutions immediately.

To remove strong odors, rub the countertop with a slice of something citric such as a lemon or orange, sprinkle lightly with salt, and wipe immediately with a paper towel or soft cloth.

Stain Removal

Stains are a result of exterior products introduced into the countertop materials. Typically, they are organic in nature and usually oil or rust related. Surface stains can generally be removed by cleaning the granite with a stone cleaning product. By identifying the type of stain, you can more readily remove the stain. Look for color, shape, and environmental factors that may have caused the stain. Many additional tips are available online.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

During your orientation we confirm that all countertops are in acceptable condition. We repair noticeable surface damage such as chips, cracks, and scratches noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection, and those will be signed off as completed on the form. Subsequent damage and repair of surface damage is one of your home maintenance responsibilities.

Chips, Cracks, Dents, Dings, and Scratches

Even the strongest countertop materials are not 100 percent indestructible, so use care when placing items on or near your countertops and never cut directly on your countertop surfaces. Edges and seams are particularly susceptible to chips, cracks, dents, dings, and scratches. Chips, cracks, dings, dents, scratches, and other cosmetic damage are not covered by the Limited Warranty.

Caulking

The caulking between the countertop and the wall, along the joint at the backsplash (the section of counter that extends a few inches up the wall along the counter area), and around the sink may shrink, leaving a slight gap. Maintaining a good seal in these locations is important to keep moisture from reaching the wood under laminates, drawers, and cabinets and to prevent warping. This is your responsibility to maintain. See the Caulking section of this manual for more information.

Laminates

Laminated countertops will have one or more discernible seams. If a seam exceeds 1/16 inch, Liberty Homes will inspect the possible cause of the seam and if it qualifies for repair.

Granite

The granite you have purchased is a very versatile material that has a luxurious look and feel as well as durability. Frequently cleaning the granite with lukewarm water is in general all that is required to maintain the appearance. Wipe the countertops thoroughly with soft, clean cloths and dry thoroughly. Acidic or abrasive cleaners should never be used on granite. Specialty stone cleaners are available at most home centers if needed or desired. Normal good housekeeping practices need to be applied, such as immediately removing spills and discretionary use of coasters and placemats.

Granite is a product of nature and contains weak spots, hairline cracks, and fissures. The hairline cracks will be filled with resin before installation is complete. Additional cracks may appear after installation, particularly if settling in the home occurs, causing movement or stress on the granite countertops. There is no compensation or warranty coverage on granite countertops that crack after installation.

Sealing

Granite and Stone countertops are natural products, and therefore, will need to be resealed approximately every 1-3 years. Resealing is an easy task that you, as the homeowner, can perform. Sealers can be purchased at most home centers. It is a good idea to test any new sealer on a small, inconspicuous area of the countertop before sealing the whole surface.

Seams

All seams are visible, especially on light colored countertops. The seams, however, should not have valleys or depressed gaps at the seams. Any of these gaps will be filled with the appropriate filler when notification is received within 30 days of closing. The homeowner is responsible for keeping all seams dry. Separation due to excessive water on seams is not covered by this warranty.

Separation from Wall

Separation of countertops from walls, backsplashes, and around sinks results from normal shrinking of materials. Subsequent caulking will be your maintenance responsibility. See also Caulking.

DAMP-PROOFING

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

We spray your foundation walls with an asphalt emulsion damp-proofing material. This is not waterproofing. Although we make every effort to ensure a dry basement, during times of excessive moisture you may notice some dampness. Dampness may be more prevalent in unfinished basements. Over time, natural compaction of soils in the backfill areas will usually eliminate this condition. Careful maintenance of positive drainage will also protect your basement from dampness.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Liberty Homes may correct conditions that allow water flow to enter the basement unless the cause is improper installation of landscaping or failure to adequately maintain drainage and grade. Whether the water penetration is determined to be water flow or dampness, which is not covered by this warranty, will be determined by Liberty Homes.

DECKS

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Liberty Homes offers decks built using a combination of composite decking materials (deck and skirt) and wood (posts). Maintaining your deck requires on-going cleaning and maintenance.

Caring for Composite Decking Materials

Cleaning: By cleaning your deck on a regular basis, you can get rid of debris that may cause organic decay or staining. While composite decking resists stains, marks can still crop up if you don't adequately care for the material. You can clean your composite decking with soap and water or a composite deck cleaner. You may be able to pressure wash this material, but you'll want to check manufacturer's guidelines before doing so.

Sweep often between more detailed cleanings to prevent debris from accumulating on the deck and getting caught in gaps. Leaves, grass, etc., can all get stuck in the gaps between your composite boards. If the debris gets wet, it may promote organic decay on your deck. If there is buildup that cannot be removed by sweeping, use a spatula or putty knife to get the leaves out. Afterward, you can spray the deck with a garden hose to make sure you rinse off anything you initially missed.

Hard Water Staining: If you have hard water, mineral deposits like lime, silica and calcium can be left on the decking and cause spots on it. This is not a defect of the product but an issue with the water. Generally, these deposits can be cleaned with white vinegar on decking surfaces. Rinsing is required, so care should be taken to not use hard water for this purpose. If hard water must be used, dry with a cloth or use a blower to dry surfaces. In some cases, a deck brightener product may also be used to help clean hard water stains.

Ice and Snow: Use a plastic shovel to remove snow from your deck – NEVER use a metal shovel, which can scratch your deck and void any warranties. Calcium chloride or rock salt, available in many home centers, will melt ice on decking. Rinse off when first practical.

Oil and Grease Stains: Speedy cleanup is best. The longer the oil or grease sits on the surface the more likely it is to soak into composite wood fibers. If soap and water don't do the trick, test an inconspicuous area using a cleaner such as Fantastik.

Rubber Mats: Use caution when using rubber-backed mats (i.e. welcome mats, etc.). These can trap moisture, and they may contain substances that can sometimes discolor or lighten the decking surface. Instead, use rugs that have a woven back.

Standing Water: Composite decking is designed to resist water and the rot associated with wood decking. You should, however, still do what you can to minimize standing liquid like puddles. This includes directing downspouts away from decking to prevent rainwater from puddling on the surface. Since mold and mildew are common environmental conditions and require moisture, air, and warm weather to grow, it's best to reduce these things to protect your deck.

Static Electricity: While this is not common, static electricity can build up on occupants walking across any composite decking surface, then produce a small static shock if they touch a grounded metal surface such as railings, doors, etc.

Ventilation: When air circulates under your composite decking, the material will dry faster. For this reason, make sure your deck has at least 6 inches of unobstructed airflow beneath it.

Caring for Wood Posts

Wood is a porous, natural product that requires on-going maintenance. Due to the moisture and temperature extremes found in Utah, natural building materials such as wood are subject to repeated expansion and contraction. This can result in warping or shrinking of wood materials. To minimize these effects, sealing wood is **required** and needs to be done as soon as possible, and you should reseal wood following the instructions on the sealer used. This can be done by painting, staining, or using a water repellent sealing product. Sealing may not prevent minor cracks, warping, or shrinkage, which is part of the normal aging process, but it can help minimize these effects and prolong the life of the wood. Because this is a normal part of the aging process, cracks, warping, and shrinkage are not typically covered by the builder warranty, especially in instances where the homeowner fails to take steps to protect the natural materials.

Effects of Exposure

Wood deck posts are subject to shrinking, cracking, splitting, cupping, and twisting. Nails or screws may work loose and need routine maintenance. Plan to inspect your decks regularly and provide needed attention promptly to maintain an attractive appearance and prevent costly repairs.

Sealing or Water Repellent

To prolong the life and beauty of your deck, treat it periodically with a water repellent or wood preservative. Local home centers or hardware stores offer several products ideal for this purpose. Always follow manufacturer directions carefully. Cracks, warping, or shrinkage caused by a failure to seal and reseal your deck posts will not be covered by the Limited Warranty.

Snow and Ice

Heavy snow or ice that remains on wood over a long period increases wear and tear. Prompt removal can reduce adverse effects. Remove any snow that accumulates on or near wood posts as soon as possible.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Composite decking materials are covered by manufacturer's warranties. For warranty questions, contact the manufacturer directly.

Exposed wood posts are constructed to meet structural and functional design. During the orientation, we will confirm that the wood posts are in satisfactory condition.

Sealing/Color Variation

Sealing your wood posts is your responsibility. Color variations are a natural result of the way in which wood accepts stain and are excluded from Limited Warranty coverage.

Replacement Posts

Shrinkage, cracking, splitting, cupping, and twisting are natural occurrences in wood products and are excluded from Limited Warranty coverage. Liberty Homes does not provide corrections when problems occur due to lack of normal homeowner maintenance.

DOORS AND HARDWARE

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Knowing what type of doors your home has will help you know how to maintain them. Steel and fiberglass doors are very resistant to fading and warping. Doors made of wood are subject to natural characteristics of wood such as shrinking and warping and more likely to need minor adjustments for warping or sticking. Wooden doors also need to be painted or stained frequently to keep them properly sealed against the elements. Doors on west or east facing sides of your home that receive direct sunlight will need maintenance more often as well. No matter what type of door you have, it is recommended that you wait for about a year before making drastic changes. Most settling of your house will occur during the first year, which can cause these problems to occur.

Exterior Doors

To ensure longer life for your exterior wood doors, plan to refinish them at least once a year. Stained exterior doors with clear finishes tend to weather faster than painted doors. Treat the finish with a wood preserver every three months to preserve the varnish.

and prevent the door from drying and cracking. Reseal stained exterior doors whenever the finish begins cracking or crazing. Separation between exterior materials and door frames/molding is normal due to the materials expansion and contraction rates of the different materials. This is not a warrantable item. Caulk around the separated area as part of your normal homeowner maintenance.

Hinges

If you have a squeaky hinge, remove the hinge pin and apply silicone lubricant or petroleum jelly to it. Avoid using oil, which can gum it up or attract dirt. Graphite works well as a lubricant but can create a gray smudge on the door or floor covering beneath the hinge if too much is applied.

Keys

Keep a duplicate privacy lock key where children cannot reach it in the event a youngster locks him or herself in a room. The top edge of the door casing is often used as a place to keep the key. A small screwdriver, paper clip, or similarly shaped device can open some types of privacy locks.

Locks

Lubricate door locks with graphite or other waterproof lubricant. Avoid oil, which will gum it up.

Shrinking

Use putty, filler, or latex caulk to fill any minor separations that develop at mitered joints in door trim. Follow with painting. Panels of wood doors shrink and expand in response to changes in temperature and humidity. Touching up the paint or stain is your responsibility.

Slamming

Slamming doors can damage both doors and jambs and can even cause cracking in walls. Teach children not to hang on the doorknob and swing back and forth, as this works loose the hardware and causes the door to sag.

Sticking

The most common cause of a sticking door is the natural expansion of lumber caused by changes in humidity. If your door sticks when it is damp, wait until the weather changes. If that fixes the problem, do nothing. If the door continues to stick, verify the strike plate is correctly positioned and not interfering with door operation. You can also try tightening hinges. If none of these fix the problem, you may need to sand (plane) the door, but you should talk to a qualified professional before doing so.

Threshold/Weather Stripping

Weather stripping and exterior door thresholds occasionally require adjustment or replacement. To adjust, remove the cap plugs on the top of the cap, adjust the screws to the desired cap height, then replace the cap plugs.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

During the orientation we confirm that all doors and thresholds are in acceptable condition and correctly adjusted. Liberty Homes will repair damage to doors noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form, and those will be signed off as completed on the form. Subsequent repairs are your responsibility.

Failure to Latch

If a door will not latch because of minor settling, you can correct this by raising or lowering the strike plate. Liberty Homes will adjust this one time during the warranty period.

Opening and Closing by Gravity

Doors should not open or close by the force of gravity. Liberty Homes will adjust the door as necessary to meet the standard.

DRYWALL

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Due to changes in humidity, your home will go through a drying-out and settling process. The majority of this process happens during the first year. This may cause some minor cracking, nail pops, or seams may become visible in walls and ceilings. This is normal. We suggest you wait until after the first heating season to repair drywall cracks or other separations due to shrinkage. See also Expansion and Contraction.

Repair

With the exception of the one-time repair of nail pops and drywall cracking provided by Liberty Homes, drywall repair is your responsibility and not covered under this warranty.

The best time to repair drywall is when you are going to be repainting. You can easily repair hairline cracks with a coat of paint. To repair larger cracks, simply fill in the crack with spackle or caulk and sand off the excess. If you notice a nail or screw head protruding from the surface of the drywall, simply hammer it back into the wall with a punch or gently tighten the screw so you do not damage the surrounding area. Cover the nail head with two or three thin coats of spackle. When dry, sand off the excess spackle to blend with the surrounding wall. Paint as usual. You can fill indentations caused by sharp objects in the same manner.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

During the orientation, we will confirm that drywall surfaces are in acceptable condition. Items noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form will be fixed at that time and signed off as completed on the form.

One-Time Repairs

Liberty Homes will fix nail pops, drywall cracking, and visible seams ONE time during the first year. This repair is for nail pops, cracks, and visible seams caused by normal settling and expansion and contraction and does not include cracks, dings, or other damage caused by homeowners. As with all other warranty items, this one-time repair must be requested by the homeowner using the online warranty request form. When requesting your one-time repair, please include as much information as possible and photos of cracking so Liberty Homes can ensure the proper contractors are scheduled for the work. We recommend that homeowners wait until the 11th month to get these resolved. It will be the homeowner's responsibility to point out all nail pops, cracks, and visible seams for the subcontractor to repair. Any nail pop, crack, or visible seam discovered after the subcontractor has made repairs will be the homeowner's responsibility.

Please note that when the repaired areas are repainted, Liberty Homes will use the same paint that was on the surface when the home was delivered only, and paint will be applied to the repaired area only. Due to the effects of time on paint and possible dye lot variations, touch-ups may not match the surrounding area. Repainting the entire wall or entire room to correct this is your choice and your responsibility. If you repainted, put up wallpaper, or otherwise changed the paint after the home was delivered, you will be responsible for that part of the repair.

Nail Pops

Nail/screw pops are normal and caused by the shrinkage of the wood and normal deflection of rafters or other materials to which the drywall is attached. They are beyond the builder's control and, other than the one-time repair, are not covered under this warranty.

Lighting Conditions

Liberty Homes does not repair drywall flaws that are only visible under particular lighting conditions. A good rule is to stand 10 feet away looking straight at the defect; if it is not visible, it is not a defect.

Related Warranty Drywall Repairs

If a drywall repair is needed as a result of poor workmanship (such as blisters in tape) or other warranty-based repair (such as a plumbing leak), Liberty Homes completes the repair by touching up the repaired area with the same paint that was on the surface when the home was delivered. If more than one-third of the wall is involved, we may repaint the wall corner to corner. You are responsible for custom paint colors or wallpaper that has been applied after closing. The effects of time on paint and wallpaper, as well as possible dye lot variations, mean touch-up may not match the surrounding area. Repainting the entire wall or entire room to correct this is your choice and your responsibility.

EASEMENTS

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Easements are areas where such things as utility supply lines can pass through your property. They permit service to your lot and adjacent lots, now and in the future. Your lot will also include drainage easements, which means the runoff from adjacent lots passes across your property. Likewise, water from your property may run across a neighboring lot. Easements are recorded and are permanent.

Trees, shrubs, gardens, play equipment, storage sheds, fences, extra driveways and walkways, RV parking, or other items that you decide to install in or across these easements may be disturbed if service entities—such as the gas, electric, or phone companies—need access to lines for repairs, or to connect service to nearby home sites.

Utility companies, the United States Postal Service, and others have the right to install equipment in easements. These might include streetlights, mailboxes, or junction boxes to name a few. Neither Liberty Homes nor you as the homeowner have the authority to prevent, interfere with, or alter these installations. Plans for the location of such items are subject to change by the various entities involved. Because they have no obligation to keep Liberty Homes informed of such changes, we are unable to predict specific sites that will include such equipment.

ELECTRICAL

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Your home's electrical system has been wired to meet industry standards. Incorrect use of the system, however, can result in power outages.

Breakers

Circuit breakers have three positions: on, tripped, and off. When a circuit breaker is tripped, you must first turn it off completely before turning it back on. Switching the breaker directly from tripped to on will not restore service.

Avoid overloading a circuit with multiple appliances and make sure all outlets and switches have cover plates. If too many appliances are plugged into one circuit, you may trip a breaker.

When you move into your home, it is a good idea to check that your breakers are correctly labeled. This can be done by turning on lights and appliances and then

switching off the breakers or disconnecting fuses one at a time to see what loses power. Make sure that the corresponding appliance or light turns off with the correct breaker and fuse. Keeping spare fuses on hand will allow you to easily replace any that blow.

If you experience breaker tripping frequently, unplug all items connected to it. If it trips when nothing is connected to it, there is a problem with the breaker, and you need an electrician. If the circuit remains on, you have either overloaded the circuit and need to plug in fewer devices or one of the items you unplugged is defective and will require repair or replacement. Plug items in one at a time to see if any trip the breaker. If an item trips the breaker on its own, it likely is defective. If no item trips the breaker on its own, you have overloaded that circuit.

Fixture Location

We install light fixtures in the locations indicated on the plans, and locations are confirmed at your 4-way walk. After the 4-way walk, fixture locations are considered final by Liberty Homes, and fixtures will be installed at those locations only. Moving fixtures to accommodate specific furniture arrangements or room use is your responsibility.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI)

The switches in your kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, outside, and garages should be Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets, which are used in areas near water or where individuals can come in contact with water because they will automatically cut the power to that location if it senses fluctuations in power caused by various effects, including if an electrical appliance plugged into it is dropped into water. You can tell which ones are GFCI because they will have a test and reset button in the middle. Heavy appliances such as freezers or power tools will trip the GFCI breaker.

GFCI outlets should be tested monthly by plugging an appliance or light into the outlet and pushing the test button. If the appliance no longer has power, the GFCI outlet is working. To restore power, push the reset button.

Never plug refrigerators and freezers into a GFCI-controlled outlet. The likelihood of the contents being ruined is high and the Limited Warranty does not cover such damage.

If a GFCI trips, it may cause other outlets on the same electrical line to no longer have power as well. If you lose power at a non-GFCI outlet in the same room as a GFCI outlet, check to see if the GFCI has tripped, reset it if needed, then check the other outlet for power. Outdoor outlets are typically on the same electrical line as GFCI's in the basement or garage. If you do not have power at an outdoor outlet, check GFCI's in these areas, reset them if needed, then check your outdoor outlets for power.

Grounded System

Your electrical system is a three-wire grounded system. Never remove the bare wire that connects to the box or device.

Light Bulbs

Liberty Homes will replace burned out bulbs noted during your orientation, and those will be signed off as completed on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form. You are responsible for replacing subsequent burned-out bulbs.

Modifications

If you wish to make any modifications, we recommend contacting the electrician listed on the Emergency Phone Numbers list in this handbook. Doing modifications yourself or having another electrician modify your electrical system during the warranty period will void that portion of your Limited Warranty.

Outlets

Outlets are placed according to the plan and in compliance with building codes. Locations are inspected multiple times during the process for compliance with codes, and the locations are final based on building codes and these inspections confirming compliance. Liberty Homes will not move outlet locations.

If an outlet is not working, check first to see if it is controlled by a wall switch or GFCI. Next, check the breaker.

If there are small children in the home, install safety plugs to cover unused outlets. This also minimizes the air infiltration that sometimes occurs with these outlets. Teach children to never touch electrical outlets, sockets, or fixtures.

If you notice scorch marks or loose-fitting outlets, make sure to have a professional fix them. If you attempt to fix things yourself, it may void any sort of warranty. However, if you must work with your home's electrical system, always turn off the power to your home first.

Underground Cables

Before digging, check the location of buried service leads by calling the local utility locating service. In most cases, wires run in a straight line from the service panel to the nearest public utility pad. Maintain positive drainage around the foundation to protect electrical service connections.

TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

No Electrical Service Anywhere in the Home

Before calling for service, check to confirm the following:

- Service is not out in the entire area. If it is, contact the utility company.
- Main breaker and individual breakers are all in the on position.

No Electrical Service to One or More Outlets

Before calling for service, check to confirm the following:

- Main breaker and individual breakers are all in the on position.
- Applicable wall switch is on.
- The GFCI is set. Reset any tripped GFCI's and try the outlet/switch again. If the outlet or switch that is not working is outdoors, check your GFCI outlets in the basement and garage.
- Item you want to use is plugged in.
- Item you want to use works in other outlets.
- Light bulb in the lamp or fixture is good.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

During the orientation, we confirm that light fixtures are in acceptable condition and that all bulbs are working. Any cosmetic damage to fixtures noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form will be repaired as part of the closing process and signed off as completed on the form. There is no warranty coverage for subsequent cosmetic damage. Liberty Homes' Limited Warranty excludes any fixture you supplied and any damage caused during the installation process.

Designed Load

Liberty Homes will repair any electrical wiring that fails to carry its designed load to meet specifications. If electrical outlets, switches, or fixtures do not function as intended, Liberty Homes will repair or replace them.

GFCI (Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupters)

Liberty Homes is not responsible for food spoilage that results from plugging refrigerators or freezers into a GFCI outlet or landscape damage due to an irrigation timer being plugged into a GFCI outlet that has tripped.

Modifications

Any warranty otherwise provided for electrical is voided upon person(s) changing, modifying, adding to, or tampering with the house electrical system in any way. For example, basement additions which "tie-in" to existing house wiring void the electrical portion of this warranty.

The Limited Warranty also does not cover any fixture that has been modified or was not installed by Liberty Homes and in the home when it closed.

Power Surge

Power surges are the result of local conditions beyond the control of Liberty Homes and are excluded from Limited Warranty coverage. These can result in burned-out bulbs or damage to sensitive electronic equipment such as TVs, alarm systems, and computers.

To help prevent damage, surge protectors are recommended. Damage resulting from lightning strikes is also excluded from Limited Warranty coverage.

EVP/LVP FLOORING

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Engineered Vinyl Plank and Luxury Vinyl Plank flooring are a great alternative to hardwood flooring. Unlike wood, it can be installed in areas where water is present, and it can give you the look of wood without the high maintenance that comes with hardwood flooring. That does not mean it is maintenance-free, however. You will need to regularly clean it to maintain its look.

Area Rugs

To prevent slippage of area rugs, use an approved vinyl rug underlayment.

Color and Pattern

Your color selection sheets provide a record of the brand, style, and color of floor coverings in your home. Please retain this information for future reference. Due to dye lot and manufacturing variations, colors and patterns in your flooring materials may vary.

Cleaning

Sweep your floor regularly (at least once a week) to remove loose dirt. When cleaning, do not use water, which can damage the floor and void your warranty (see Limit Water below for additional information). Do not use oil soaps, liquid or paste wax products, or other household cleaners that contain citrus oils, lemon oil, tung oil, silicon, or ammonia. The use of these and other such products will harm the long-term performance of your floor. See manufacturers literature for cleaning recommendations.

Dimples

Placing heavy furniture or dropping heavy or sharp objects on EVP/LVP floors can result in dimples, which is not covered by the Limited Warranty.

Exposure to Light and Heat

Heat and sunlight can cause EVP/LVP flooring to fade, discolor, swell, warp, delaminate, separate, or peak at the edges. Damage caused by heat and sunlight is not covered by the Limited Warranty. You can prevent such damage with easy steps. Install curtains and blinds on windows in rooms with EVP/LVP flooring, and close curtains or blinds during times when extreme sunlight hits the floor to prevent damage to your flooring. Do not put anything extremely hot or capable of becoming very hot on your flooring. You may also want to consider rearranging furniture and rugs occasionally to help prevent fading and discoloration in exposed areas.

Filmy Appearance

A white, filmy appearance can result from moisture. This is often from wet shoes or boots.

Floating Installation

EVP/LVP floors may be installed using a “floating” installation method and not glued directly to the subfloor. Because they are not tacked down, the floor may flex/move a little and may have a slightly amplified sound from foot traffic, especially from hard sole shoes. This is normal and not covered by warranty.

Furniture Legs

Install proper floor protectors on furniture placed on EVP/LVP floors. Protectors will allow chairs to move easily over the floor without scuffing. Regularly clean the protectors to remove any grit that may have accumulated.

Limit Water

Never wet-mop, damp mop, steam-clean or direct spray moisture (i.e. wet spray Swiffer) on EVP/LVP flooring. Excessive water causes swelling, warping, delamination, and joint separation, which voids the warranty. Remove spills promptly using a clean, soft cloth. Protect your floor from water around pet dishes, dishwasher, and refrigerator.

Mats

Use a doormat outside each entrance to your home to prevent dirt, sand, grit, and other substances such as oil, asphalt, and driveway sealer from being tracked onto your floor. Use non-staining mats, and do not put latex-backed or coco-fiber mats on your floor, as they may stain or damage the surface.

Mats are also suggested at heavy pivot locations, such as in front of your kitchen sink or stove.

Movement

Floors expand and contract with changes in climate and humidity. This can cause minor checking/cracking in the surface and gapping between planks. These are not manufacturing defects and are considered normal.

Moving Furniture

Moving furniture and appliances across EVP/LVP floor covering can result in dimples, dents, and other damage. If you need to move heavy furniture or appliances across the floor, always use strips of wood or hardboard runways. Even if you have an appliance dolly, or even if the heavy objects are equipped with wheels or rollers, always use a runway.

If you do damage the floor, you can have it successfully patched by professionals. If any scraps remain when installation of your floor covering is complete, we leave them in the hope that having the matching dye lot will make such repairs less apparent.

Shoes

Keep high heels in good repair. Heels that have lost their protective cap (thus exposing the fastening nail) will exert over 8,000 pounds of pressure per square inch on the floor. That's enough to damage hardened concrete, so it will most definitely mark your floor.

Traffic Paths

A dulling of the finish in heavy traffic areas is likely.

Warping

Warping will occur if the floor repeatedly becomes wet or is thoroughly soaked even once. Slight warping in the area of heat vents or heat-producing appliances is also typical.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

During the orientation Liberty Homes will confirm that your EVP/LVP floors are in acceptable condition. We will correct any readily noticeable cosmetic defects listed on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form, and those will be signed off as completed on the form. You are responsible for any subsequent defects and proper routine maintenance of EVP/LVP floors.

Swelling, Warping, Delamination, and Joint Separation

If there is swelling, warping, delamination, or joint separation during the one-year warranty period, Liberty Homes will schedule a site visit to investigate possible causes and if it is an installation or manufacturer defect that qualifies for repair. Damage caused by moisture, excess heat from uncovered windows or other such sources, abuse, lack of maintenance, and other misuse is not covered under this warranty.

Color Match

If a repair to EVP/LVP floor is necessary for any reason, exact color match may not be possible. Liberty Homes will make every effort to match product, but due to dye lot differences, a perfect match will not be guaranteed.

EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Changes in temperature and humidity cause all building materials to expand and contract. Dissimilar materials expand or contract at different rates. This movement results in separation between materials, particularly dissimilar ones. You will see the effects in small cracks in drywall and in paint, especially where moldings meet drywall, at mitered corners, and where tile grout meets a tub or sink. While this can alarm an uninformed homeowner, it is normal.

Shrinking of the wood members in your home is inevitable and occurs in every new home. Although this is most noticeable during the first year, it may continue beyond that time. In most cases, caulk and paint are all that you need to conceal this minor evidence of a natural phenomenon. Even properly installed, caulking shrinks and cracks. Maintenance of caulking is your responsibility.

Plumbing drain pipes expand and contract as hot water flows through them. This can cause a ticking sound inside the wall or drainage path. This is normal and requires no repair.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

All new homes go through a period of settlement and movement. Your home may experience some minor material shrinkage, cracking, and other events which are normal and customary. Examples include small cracks in drywall and paint and separation where dissimilar materials meet each other. For example, where moldings meet sheet rock or where tile grout meets a sink. In most cases, paint and caulking is all that is necessary to conceal these types of blemishes that result from the natural expansion and contraction of construction material. Because these events are normal and customary, they are not a defect or structural defect covered by this express Limited Warranty. See also Drywall and Caulk.

FENCING

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Depending on the community in which your home is located, fencing may be included with your home, it may be an optional item, or it may be an item you consider adding after you move in. When Liberty Homes installs fencing as part of your new home, we

confirm its good condition during your orientation or at time of installation if that comes after your orientation. All types of fencing require some routine attention.

Drainage

In planning, installing, and maintaining fencing, be sure to allow existing drainage patterns to function unimpeded. When installing a fence, use caution in distributing soil removed to set posts to avoid blocking drainage swales. Plan enough space under the bottom of a fence for water to pass through.

Community and Homeowner Association Requirements

In some communities, zoning laws may impact private fencing. Liberty Homes-installed fences have been installed to meet any zoning laws and restrictions. If you are modifying the Liberty Homes-installed fence or installing a new fence, your responsibilities include checking on such details. Information may also be found in the CC&Rs for your subdivision.

If you live in a Homeowners Association (HOA), you will need to obtain approval from the HOA. Specific requirements about style, height, and position on the lot are described in the current design review guidelines, which you can obtain from a committee member.

Liberty Homes recommends using a professional to install fencing.

Variation

Height and location of Liberty Homes installed fences will vary with lot size, topography, and shape. Liberty Homes must meet the requirements of the design review process just as any homeowner would.

Vinyl Fencing

Vinyl fencing is an excellent and durable product if treated and maintained properly. Do not paint or use harsh chemicals to clean the fence, use only a mild soap and water.

Warranty does not cover impact of foreign objects, tornado, hurricane, violent storms, normal weathering of surfaces, abnormal discoloration due to improper maintenance, or acts of God.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

If fencing is part of your home purchase, we will confirm the acceptable condition of the fence during your orientation or at the time of install if that comes after the orientation. Liberty Homes will correct fence posts that become loose during the warranty period unless caused by homeowner negligence or natural occurrences, such as storms, earthquakes, and other acts of God. Be aware that damage to fencing caused by severe weather should be referred to your homeowner insurance company and is specifically excluded from warranty coverage.

FIREPLACES

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Liberty Homes offers gas fireplaces. If you added a fireplace, it was demonstrated during the orientation. Read and follow all manufacturers' directions. A slight delay between turning the switch on and the flame ignition is normal. The flames should ignite gently and silently. If you notice a deviation from this and/or any gas smell, shut off the switch immediately and report it to the gas company.

Fireplaces are not intended to be the sole heat source in the home. The fireplace should function properly when Liberty Homes and the manufacturer's directions are followed.

Annual Maintenance and Safety Inspection

You should have an annual maintenance and safety inspection of your fireplace to minimize fire hazards:

- The glass, firebox, heat exchanger, and air intake areas should be cleaned.
- It should also be checked for carbon-monoxide leaks. All connections and settings should be checked.
- Always follow your manufacturer's recommendations.
- Consult the manufacturer's manual for instructions on cleaning your glass fireplace doors. It is normal for them to get dirty.

Cleaning

When cleaning your fireplace, be sure you use proper fireplace cleaners and not standard household cleaning products, including but not limited to Windex and similar glass cleaners. Standard household cleaning products can damage the fireplace, and such damage is not covered by warranty. Fireplace cleaners can be found at most major retailers.

Condensation

It is normal for there to be some condensation on the glass when you first turn on the fireplace due to temperature differences between the glass and flame – the condensation will go away when the glass gets more heat in it.

Excessive Winds

Excessive winds can cause a downdraft, which can blow out the pilot light, requiring you to relight it before using the fireplace.

Odor

During the first few uses of the fireplace, you may notice an odor being emitted. This is normal and results from any factory coatings being burned off.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

During orientation, we confirm all fireplace surfaces, including, but not limited to, the glass, screen, surrounds, and mantles, are in acceptable condition and that the fireplace works properly. Any cosmetic defect noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form will be repaired and signed off as completed on the form. Subsequent defects will be your responsibility.

If during the one-year warranty period, your fireplace does not operate properly, turn it off and submit a warranty request through our online system. If you smell gas, contact the gas company immediately.

FOUNDATION

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

We install the foundation of your home according to the recommendations of our consulting engineer. The walls of the foundation are poured concrete with steel reinforcing rods. To protect your home's foundation, follow the guidelines for installation and maintenance of landscaping and drainage in this manual.

Cracks

Even though an engineer designed the foundation and it was constructed according to engineering requirements, surface cracks can still develop in the wall. Surface cracks are not detrimental to the structural integrity of your home. If a crack develops in a foundation wall that allows water to come through, follow the procedures for submitting a warranty claim.

Dampness

Due to the amount of water in concrete, basements may be damp, especially when unfinished. Condensation can form on water lines and drip onto the floor. This is normal and not covered by this warranty. Water leakage into a porch storage room from the porch cap is also not covered by this warranty.

Future Construction in Basement

If you decide to perform additional construction in the basement, obtain guidelines from a licensed engineer, obtain a building permit, and comply with all codes and safety requirements. Liberty Homes does not warrant that you will be able to obtain such a permit because of the possibility that building codes may change.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Cosmetic Imperfections

Slight cosmetic imperfections in foundation walls, such as a visible seam where two pours meet or slight honeycombing (aggregate visible), are possible and require no repair unless they permit water to enter.

Cracks

Shrinkage or backfill cracks are not unusual in foundation walls, especially at the corners of basement windows. Cracks that exceed 1/8 inch in width or permit water to enter will be inspected by Liberty Homes to determine possible causes and if they qualify to be sealed by Liberty Homes.

Foundation Plaster

Foundation plastering is a cosmetic application that is subject to weather and irrigation damage and is not covered under this warranty.

Leaks

Liberty Homes will correct conditions that permit water to enter the basement, provided you have complied with the drainage, landscaping, and maintenance guidelines.

GARAGE DOORS

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Since the garage door is a large, moving object, periodic maintenance is necessary. If your door has a problem, refer to the owner's manual or contact the manufacturer for guidance. Any repairs to a garage door, especially repairs to the coils and motor, should be done by a professional to prevent serious injuries.

Alignment

Make sure the door is in alignment. If out of alignment, tighten the bolts on the wheels that run on the overhead track.

Light Visible

Overhead garage doors cannot be airtight. Some light will be visible around the edges and across the top and bottom of the door. Weather conditions may result in some precipitation entering around the door, as well as some dust. This is especially prevalent until most homes in the community have landscaping installed.

Lubrication

Every three months, apply a garage door lubricant to all moving parts, such as track, rollers, hinges, pulleys, and springs. At the same time, check to see that all hardware is tight and operating as intended without binding or scraping.

Moisture

Moisture can cause problems with your door, including rusting, warping, and rotting. Some condensation on the inside during heavy rains is expected. However, if there are major leaks, or leaks during light rains, contact your door's manufacturer.

Opener

To prevent damage to a garage door opener, be sure the door is completely unlocked and the rope-pull has been removed before using the operator. If you have an opener installed after closing on your home, we suggest that you order it from the company that provided and installed the garage door to assure uninterrupted warranty coverage. Be familiar with the steps for manual operation of the door in the event of a power failure.

Liberty Homes will demonstrate the electric eye that provides a safety stop in the event someone crosses through the opening while the overhead door is in motion during your orientation. Use care not to place tools or other stored items where they will interfere with the function of the electric eye.

Expect to replace the battery in the garage opener remote controls about once a year.

Painting

Repaint the garage door when you repaint your home, or more often if needed to maintain a satisfactory appearance.

Safety

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe and reliable operation. Do not allow anyone except the operator near the door when it is in motion. Keep hands and fingers away from all parts of the door. Do not allow children to play with or around the door.

For your safety, after the expiration of the one-year warranty, have adjustments made by a qualified specialist. The door springs are under a considerable amount of tension and require special tools and knowledge for accurate and safe servicing. Have the door inspected by a professional garage door technician after any significant impact to the door.

Seal

The seal on the bottom of your door should also be looked at periodically to make sure it is in good condition.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

The garage door should operate smoothly and with reasonable ease. The door can become misaligned and require adjustment, which Liberty Homes will provide unless the problem is caused by misuse or the installation of a garage door opener after closing on the home.

Appearance

Liberty Homes confirms your garage door is in good condition during your orientation. This includes not only mechanical operation but the appearance, including paint and the exclusion of dents, dings, and other flaws. Liberty Homes will repair any flaws in appearance that are noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form and such repairs will be signed off on the form. Any subsequent flaws are your responsibility.

Electric Eye

It is your responsibility to keep objects away from the electric safety eye. Adjustments are your responsibility if they are bumped out of alignment.

Sag

The garage door may sag slightly due to its weight and span.

GAS SHUTOFFS

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

You will find shutoffs on gas lines near their connection to each item that operates with gas. In addition, there is a main shutoff at the meter. We point these out during the orientation. Shutting gas off at the meter should only be done in emergency situations, and you should have the gas company turn it back on.

Gas Leak

If you suspect a gas leak, leave the home and call the gas company immediately for emergency service.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

The gas company is responsible for leaks up to the meter. Liberty Homes will investigate leaks from the meter into the home during the warranty period to determine possible causes and if they qualify for repairs.

GRADING AND DRAINAGE

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

The final grade around your home has been inspected and approved for proper drainage of your lot by the local building officials as well as Liberty Homes. Maintaining the grading of the land around your home is very important for keeping your house structurally sound.

Drainage

The grade should slope away from your house at least 1/4-inch for every foot. This allows water to drain away from your home and prevents water from pooling near your foundation where it can cause damage. Your home already has this grading, but if you choose to re-landscape or hire someone to do so, make sure that the grading does not change. Creating a slope towards your house or a flat slope can redirect rainwater into your foundation. Also use care when landscaping, adding fences, or other additions to your home to prevent causing water problems on adjacent properties. If your modifications cause damage to a neighboring home, you may be responsible for repairing those damages.

Exterior Finish Materials

Maintain soil levels six inches below siding, stucco, brick, or other exterior finish materials. Contact with the soil can cause deterioration of the exterior finish material and encourages pest infestations.

Roof Water

Liberty Homes installed downspout extensions on your gutter system to prevent water from pooling at your foundation. Keep these maintained and in place at all times so the water drains away from your home quickly. Where the extension terminates at finished landscape locations, such as in lawn areas, keep the grass trimmed away from the pop-up emitter to allow the unit to drain and function as intended.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

We established the final grade to ensure adequate drainage away from the home.

Maintaining this drainage is your responsibility. If you alter the drainage pattern after closing or if changes in drainage occur due to lack of maintenance, landscape installed too close to your home, and/or failure to maintain downspouts and other drain systems properly, the Limited Warranty is void. Liberty Homes is not responsible for any damage caused by drainage problems created by modifying the grade, landscaping installed too close to your home, and failure to maintain proper drainage.

Erosion

If you leave bare soil without landscaping or ground cover, it erodes and changes the grade. Correcting erosion is your responsibility.

New Sod

New sod installation and the extra watering that accompanies it can cause temporary drainage problems, as can unusually severe weather conditions. These drainage problems are not covered by the Limited Warranty.

Settling

The area we excavated for your home's foundation was larger than the home to allow space to work. In addition, some trenching is necessary for installation of utility lines. Although we replaced and compacted the soil, it does not return to its original density.

Some settling will occur, especially after prolonged or heavy rainfall or melting of large amounts of snow. Settling can continue for several years. Inspect the perimeter of your home regularly for signs of settling and fill settled areas as needed to maintain positive drainage. Maintenance of the grade around your home is your responsibility.

Recommendations

Liberty Homes documents the grades that exist at the time of delivery of your home or as soon thereafter as possible. The ground must be dry and free of frost to make these determinations. Once final grades are set, Liberty Homes will inspect drainage problems reported in writing during the warranty period, compare grades to those originally established, and advise you on corrective actions you might take.

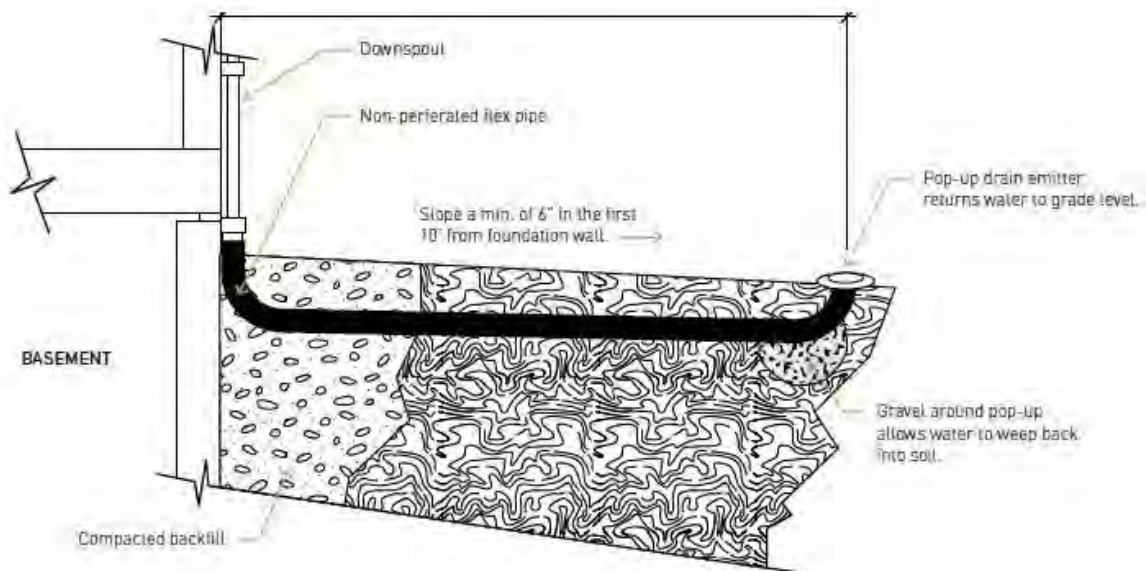
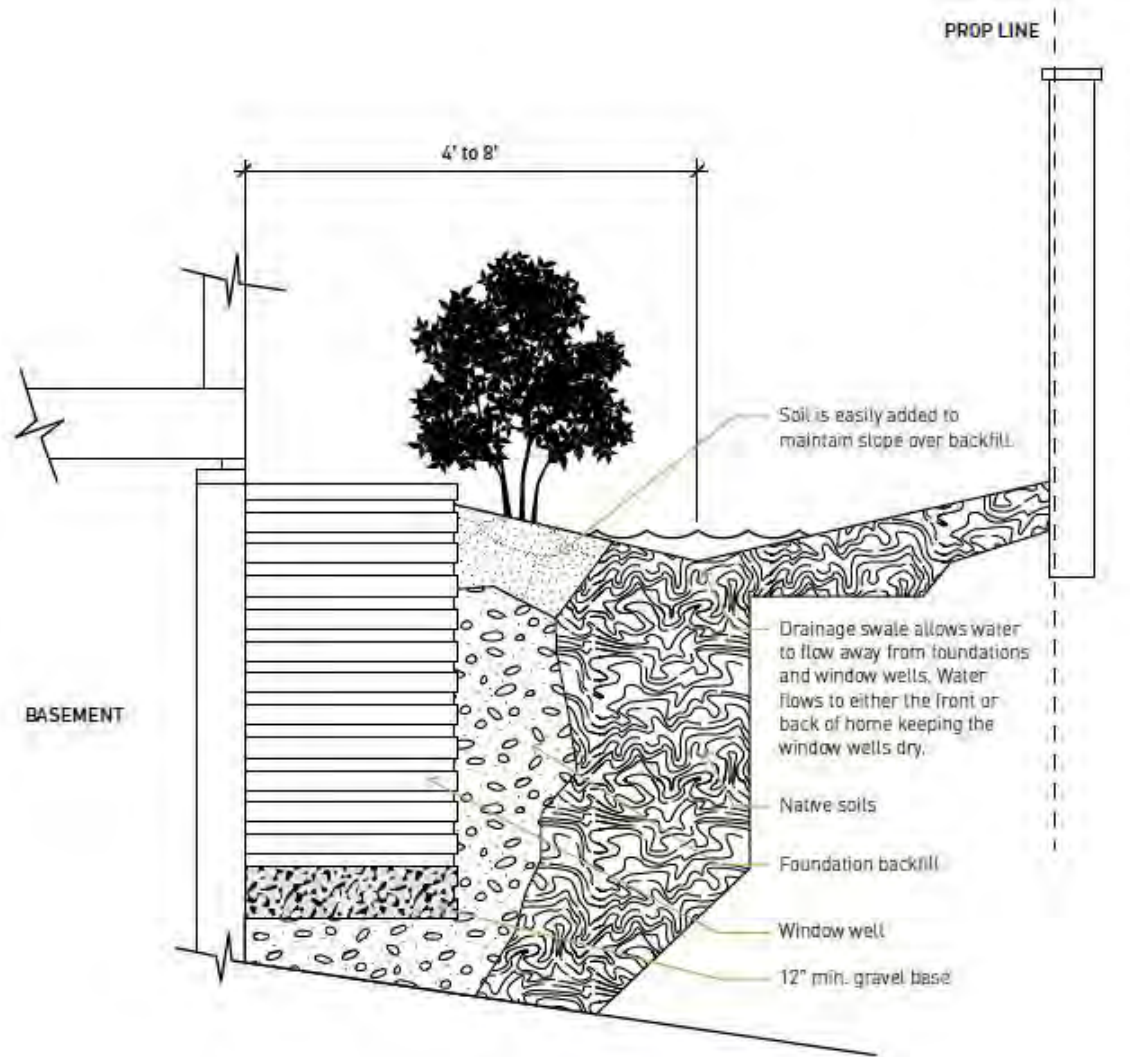
Swales

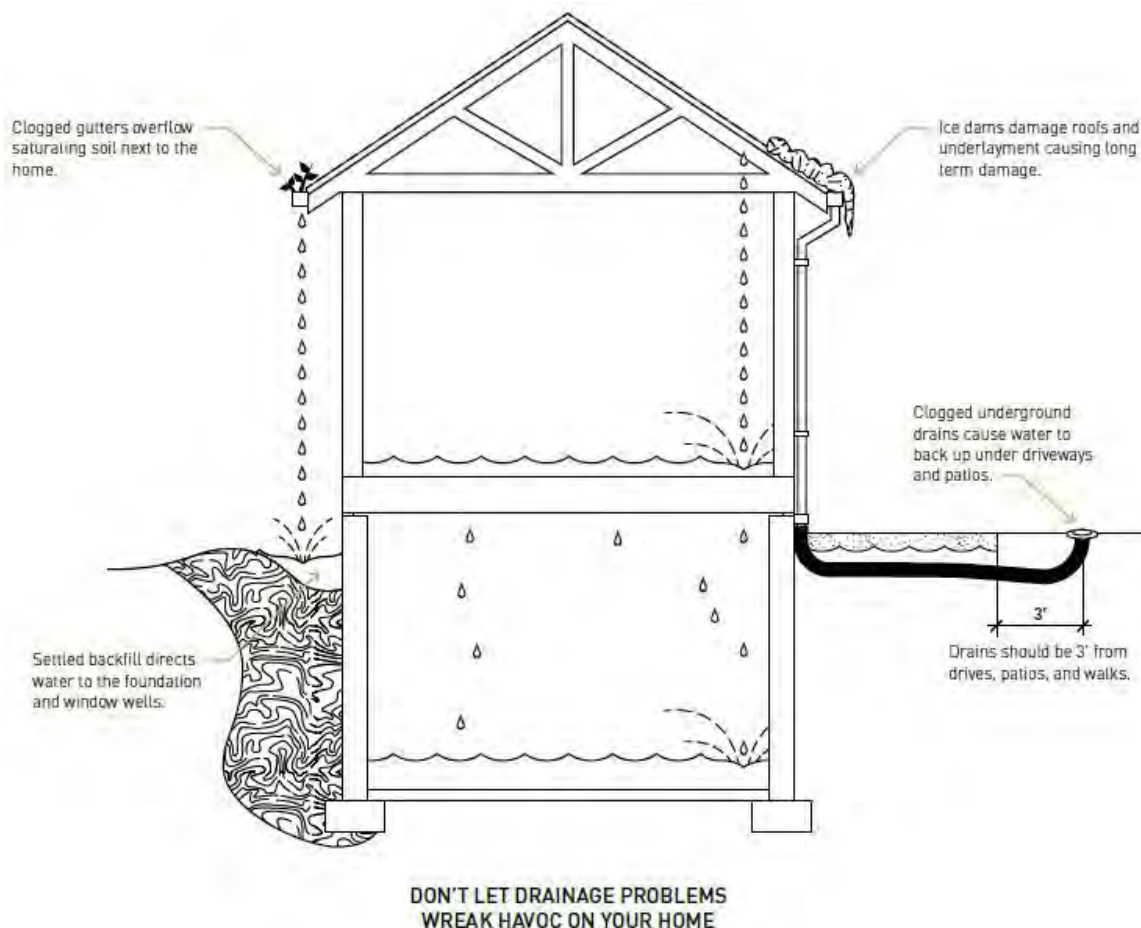
Liberty Homes does not alter drainage patterns to suit individual landscape plans. Typically, a lot receives water from and passes water onto other lots. Therefore, changes in grade often affect adjacent or nearby lots. Liberty Homes advises against making such changes, and if such changes are made, you are responsible for any damage that may occur. After heavy rain or snow, water may stand in swales up to 48 hours.

Winter Grading

Due to weather conditions, especially during winter and early spring, the final grade may not have been established at the time of closing. We document the status of your grading at the time of delivery. When conditions permit, grading work will continue.

Confirm that we have completed your grading before beginning landscaping.





GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Gutters are very important because they help you control water drainage and move it away from your home. Maintenance of your gutters involves regular cleanings, especially after severe winds. Gutters clogged with leaves and mud can rot and rust.

Cleaning

The simplest way to clean gutters is with a garden hose. Starting at the highest point, use the hose to push the debris towards the drain spouts. A stick or the handle of a yard tool can be used to push clogs through the drain. If there is excess debris or it has been a while since you cleaned gutters and it is matted in, you may need to use your hands to help remove the debris. Make sure water flows freely through the gutter and downspout to signal you have cleaned them out completely.

Extensions

Liberty Homes installed downspout extensions on your gutter system to prevent water from pooling at your foundation. Keep these maintained and in place at all times so water drains away from your home quickly. Extensions should discharge outside of rock or bark beds so that water is not dammed behind edging materials that might be used. Where the extension terminates at finished landscape locations, such as in lawn areas, keep the grass trimmed away from the pop-up emitter to allow the unit to drain and function as intended.

Leaks

If a joint between sections of gutter drips, caulk the inside joint using a commercial gutter caulking available at hardware stores. A great time to check for leaks is when you are running water through the gutters to clean them.

Rust and Holes

Gutters should be checked for rust and holes monthly.

Snow and Ice

Clear excess snow and ice from gutter systems as soon as possible to allow gutter to drain and prevent damage. Severe ice or snow build-up can damage gutters, and that damage is not covered by your warranty.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Gutters over three feet long are installed with a slight slope so that roof water will flow to the downspouts.

Leaks

Leaks that occur during the warranty period will be inspected and may be repaired as long as the leaks are not caused by misuse, negligence, or lack of regular maintenance.

Overflow

Gutters may overflow during periods of excessively heavy rain. This is expected and requires no repair.

Standing Water

Small amounts of water (up to one inch) will stand for short periods of time in gutters immediately after rain. No correction is required for these conditions.

HEATING

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Keeping your furnace in good shape will ensure a warm home for years to come. Carefully read and follow the manufacturer's instructions on use and maintenance. The guidelines here include general information only.

Time is very important in your expectations of a heating system. Unlike a light bulb, which reacts instantly when you turn on a switch, the heating unit only begins a process when you set the thermostat. Keeping your heating unit running all day will allow the system to moderate temperatures more effectively. If your system is turned off when you leave for the day, it will take longer for the system to reach the correct temperature when it is turned back on. For example, if your house reaches 60 degrees during the day, the heating system will take longer to heat up your home when you turn it on that night. Please note that turning the thermostat higher than the temperature you desire will not cause the heating system to heat faster; in fact, it can cause damage if turned too high. Instead of turning the heating system on and off, use a programmable or smart thermostat to adjust temperatures. This will allow you to set it at a cooler temperature during times you are away to save energy but also not have your home get too cold for the system to be effective later. Your home came equipped with a programmable or smart thermostat. Please refer to the manufacturer's instructions for details on setting up programs.

Filter

The number one thing in furnace maintenance is to regularly check and replace the filter. This may need to be done as often as once a month during the heating and cooling seasons. Carefully read and follow the manufacturer's literature on use and maintenance.

Adjust Vents

Experiment with the adjustable registers in your home to establish the best heat flow for your lifestyle. Generally, you can reduce the heat in seldom used or interior rooms. This is an individual matter, and you will need to balance the system for your own family's needs.

Avoid Overheating

Do not overheat your new home. Overheating can cause excessive shrinking of framing lumber and could materially damage the home. In the beginning, use as little heat as possible and increase it gradually.

Blower Panel (Fan cover)

You need to position the blower panel cover correctly for the furnace blower to operate. This panel compresses a button that tells the blower it is safe to operate. Similar to the way a clothes dryer door operates, this panel pushes in a button that lets the fan motor know it is safe to come on. If that button is not pushed in, the furnace will not operate.

Combustion Air

Furnaces installed by Liberty Homes include a combustion air duct. The outside end of this duct is covered with a screen to minimize insects or animals from entering. Cold air coming in through this duct means it is functioning as it should.

Never cover or block the combustion air vent in any way. Outside air is needed to supply the furnace with sufficient oxygen. Blocking the combustion air vent can damage the furnace and will cause the furnace to draw air down the vent pipe and pull poisonous gases back into your home.

Compressor Level

Maintain the air conditioning compressor in a level position to prevent inefficient operation and damage to the equipment. See also Grading and Drainage.

Duct Cleaning

Exercise caution before spending money on professional ductwork cleaning services. A study by the EPA found no proof that ductwork cleaning improves indoor air quality, nor was evidence found that it prevents health problems. For more information, visit the EPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/should-you-have-air-ducts-your-home-cleaned>

Ductwork Noise

The popping or booming noise is the natural result of expansion and contraction of the ductwork system. It may not be possible to eliminate it completely. Liberty Homes will adjust loud oil canning noises when possible.

Fuse

The fuse is located in the circuit board and is a three-amp fuse. It absorbs any spikes in the line such as close electrical strikes or power surges. Unlike old fuses that burn out and clearly indicate that they are blown, these fuses, similar to automobile fuses, have a spring that depresses when tripped. Unless you have examined these quite carefully before, it may be hard to determine if the fuse has blown. We suggest that you buy some extra fuses of the same size in case a replacement is needed.

Furnished Home

The heating system was designed with a furnished home in mind. If you move in during the cooler part of the year and have not yet acquired all of your draperies and furnishings, the home may seem cooler than you would expect.

Manufacturer's Instructions

The manufacturer's manual specifies maintenance for the condenser. Review and follow these points carefully. Since the air conditioning system is combined with the heating system, follow the maintenance instructions for your furnace as part of maintaining your air conditioning system.

Modifications

If you wish to make any modifications, we recommend contacting the HVAC company listed on the Emergency Phone Numbers list in this handbook. Doing modifications yourself or having another HVAC technician modify your system during the warranty period will void that portion of your Limited Warranty.

Odor

A new heating system may emit an odor for a few moments when you first turn it on, and an established system may emit an odor after being unused for an extended time, such as after the summer months. This is caused by dust that has settled in the ducts and should pass quickly. However, if you smell gas, call the gas company immediately.

On-Off Switch

The furnace has an on-off blower switch. This switch looks like a regular light switch and is located in a metal box outside the furnace. When turned off, this switch overrides all furnace commands and shuts down the blower. This is usually done only when maintenance service is being performed, although young children have been known to turn the furnace off using this switch.

Pilot

Today, furnaces are much easier to use than those of the past. Modern furnaces come with an electronic ignition system, rather than the old pilot light. See manufacturer's instructions on igniting the pilot light.

Registers

Heat register covers are removable and adjustable. You are responsible for adjusting the dampers in these covers to regulate the heat flow within the home. Registers in the rooms farther away from the furnace will usually need to be opened wider.

Return Air Vents

For maximum comfort and efficient energy use, arrange furniture and draperies to allow unobstructed airflow from registers to cold air returns. Also, regularly clean cold air returns to prevent dust and dirt from obstructing the airflow.

Temperature Variations

Depending on the style of home, temperatures may vary from room to room and floor to floor by several degrees Fahrenheit. This is due to such variables as floor plan, orientation of the home on the lot, type and use of window coverings, and traffic through the home. The furnace blower will typically cycle on and off more frequently and for shorter periods during severe cold spells.

For more comfortable living, turn the fan switch at the thermostat to the “on” position to continually cycle air through your home. The blower motor will run continuously, actually extending the life of the unit. Heating and cooling will only start up when the thermostat calls for a temperature increase or decrease.

Thermostat

The furnace will come on automatically when the temperature at the thermostat registers below the setting you have selected. Once the furnace is on, setting the thermostat to a higher temperature will not heat the home faster. Thermostats are calibrated within +/- five degrees.

Trial Run

Have a trial run early in the fall to test the furnace. (The same applies to air conditioning in the spring.) If service is needed, it is much better to discover that before the heating season.

TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

Heating system not working properly or at all? Even if these do not resolve the problem, checking the following items before calling for service can be useful to the service provider:

- The thermostat is set to “heat” and the temperature is set above the room temperature. If using a programmable thermostat, check to make sure the temperature hasn’t been held at a lower temperature, which will override any programming. See your thermostat’s manual for more information on programming and holding temperatures.
- The filter is clean to allow airflow.
- Blower panel cover is installed correctly. This panel compresses a button that tells the blower it is safe to operate (similar to a dryer’s door). If the panel is not properly installed and the button is not pushed in, the furnace will not operate.
- The breakers on the main electrical panel are on. (Remember: if a breaker trips, you must turn it from the tripped position to the off position before you can turn it back on)
- The switch on the side of the HVAC unit is on.
- Fuse in furnace is good. (See manufacturer literature for size and location)
- Gas line is open at the main meter and on the side of the furnace.
- The vents in the individual rooms are open.
- Air returns are unobstructed.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Liberty Homes will install heating systems according to local building codes, as well as to engineering designs of the particular floor plan. Because of variables specific to each home, including, but not limited to, floor plan, lot placement, window locations, and the direction the home faces, specific system specifications may vary from home to home even in seemingly similar homes.

Adequacy of the system is determined by its ability to establish a temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit, as measured in the center of the room, five feet above the floor. In extremely cold temperatures (ten degrees below zero or colder), the system should be able to maintain a temperature differential of 80 degrees from the outside temperature.

Duct Placement

The exact placement of heat ducts may vary from the positions shown in similar floor plans.

Ductwork

Although the heat system is not a sealed system, the ductwork should remain attached and securely fastened. If it becomes unattached, Liberty Homes will repair it as needed unless detachment is due to homeowner negligence or work done by someone other than Liberty Homes, its employees, or contractors directly hired by Liberty Homes.

Popping or booming noise is a natural result of expansion and contraction of the ductwork system. It may not be possible to eliminate it completely. Liberty Homes will adjust loud oil canning noise when possible.

Modifications

Any warranty otherwise provided for the HVAC system is voided upon person(s) changing, modifying, adding to, or tampering with the HVAC system in any way. For example, basement additions which "tie-in" to existing HVAC system, ductwork, etc., void the HVAC portion of this warranty.

Thermostat

Thermostats are calibrated to +/- five degrees.

Many homeowners choose to upgrade their thermostat after settling into their home. If you want to do this, it is recommended you hire a professional to do the work. Improper installation could result in damage to your heating system or cause it to not work properly and may void the warranty on your heating system. Thermostats not installed by Liberty Homes and any resulting problems and damage caused by thermostats not installed by Liberty Homes are not covered under the Limited Warranty.

INSULATION

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

The effectiveness of blown insulation is diminished if it is compressed. As the last step in any work done in your attic, you should confirm that the insulation lays smooth and even. Do not step on drywall ceilings, because this can result in personal injury or damage to the drywall.

Electrical outlets normally emit noticeable amounts of cold air when outside temperatures are low.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Liberty Homes will install insulation to meet or exceed the building codes applicable at the time of construction and as outlined as part of your purchase agreement.

LANDSCAPING

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Providing complete details on landscaping is beyond the scope of this manual. There are many great resources online, and local nurseries and landscape professionals can help you.

In planning your landscaping, think of proportion, texture, color, material size, maintenance needs, soft and hard surfaces, lighting, fencing, edging, and water requirements. A beautiful yard requires considerable planning and regular attention. Most homeowners take years to achieve the yard they want. Planning to install items in stages can spread the cost and work over several seasons.

Whatever the source of your design, plan to install the basic components of your landscaping as soon after closing as weather permits. In addition to meeting your Homeowner Association or CC&Rs requirements to landscape in a timely manner, well-designed landscaping prevents erosion and protects the foundation of your home.

Backfill

We construct the foundation of your home beginning with an excavation into the earth. When the foundation walls are complete, the area surrounding them is backfilled. Soil in this area is not as compact as undisturbed ground. Water can penetrate through the backfill area to the lower areas of your foundation. This can cause potentially severe problems such as wet basements, cracks in foundation walls, and floor slab movement. Avoid this through proper installation of landscaping and good maintenance of drainage.

Backfill areas will settle and require prompt homeowner attention to avoid damage to your home and voiding of the structural warranty.

Keep downspout extensions in the down position to channel roof runoff away from the foundation area of your home. Routine inspection of downspouts, backfill areas, and other drainage components is an excellent maintenance habit. See also Grading and Drainage.

Back Flow Preventer

Recent building codes have required the installation of back flow preventers in your sprinkler system to prevent pesticides and other contaminants from entering your home water system. It is necessary to weatherize your back flow preventer each fall before temperatures reach freezing. Weatherization of the sprinkler system, including the back flow preventer, is your responsibility.

Bark or Rock Beds

Make sure edging around decorative rock or bark beds is far enough away to allow for free flow of water away from the home. You can use a non-woven landscape fabric between the soil and rock or bark to restrict weed growth while still permitting normal evaporation of ground moisture.

Erosion

Until your yard is established and stable, erosion will be a potential concern. Heavy rains or roof runoff can erode soil. The sooner you restore the grade to its original condition, the less damage will occur.

Erosion is of special concern in drainage swales. If swales become filled with soil runoff, they may not drain the rest of the yard, causing further problems. Correcting erosion is your responsibility. You may need to protect newly planted seed with erosion matting or reseed to establish grass in swales. It can take several years to fully establish your lawn in such challenging areas.

Hired Contractors

You are responsible for changes to the drainage pattern made by any landscape, concrete, deck, or pool contractor you hire. Discuss drainage with any company you hire to do an installation in your yard. Do not permit them to tie into existing drainage pipes without approval from Liberty Homes.

Natural Areas

During construction, we remove construction debris from natural areas. Removing dead wood, tree limbs, fallen trees, rocks, or other natural items is your responsibility.

Outdoor Faucets

Outside faucets (sill cocks or hose bibs) are freeze-proof, but in order for this feature to be effective, you must remove hoses during cold weather, even if the faucet is located in your garage. If a hose is left attached, the water that remains in the hose can freeze and expand back into the pipe, causing a break in the line. Repair of a broken line that feeds an exterior faucet is a homeowner maintenance item. Any damage caused by water from a broken line is also your responsibility, including damage to neighboring properties.

Note that Liberty Homes does not warrant outdoor faucets against freezing.

Planning

Locate plants and irrigation heads out of the way of pedestrian or bicycle traffic and car bumpers. Space out trees to allow for efficient growth. Group plants with similar water, sun, and space requirements together.

When planning your landscaping, leave space between your home and any landscaping to avoid water damage to the foundation, mold, termites, water in window wells, and other such damage. Lawns, in particular, should not be installed all the way up to your home due to the amount of water typically used on lawns and the drainage associated with them. If you install landscaping without space between it and your home and it causes water drainage issues or other damage, you will void the home warranty and be responsible for any repairs needed.

Plant Selection

Use plants that adapt well to your local climate. Favor native over exotic species, and consider future size, shape, and growth of the plant.

Requirements

Check with your local building department and Homeowners Association before designing, installing, or changing landscaping for any regulations you are required to follow.

Seeded Lawns

If lawn seeding is part of your landscape plan, consider this as the first step in establishing your yard. Remember that the forces of nature are far stronger than grass seed. You will need to over-seed at some point, perhaps more than once. Heavy storms can cause washouts and erosion that you will need to correct. It generally takes at least three growing seasons to establish a good lawn, longer if weather conditions are difficult or if you do not have the time to devote to lawn care.

Before over-seeding, remember to fill any slight depressions with a light layer of topsoil. Minimize traffic of all kinds on newly seeded areas and avoid weed killer for at least 120 days. Keep the seed moist, not wet.

Sod

Newly placed sod requires extra water for several weeks. Be aware that new sod and the extra watering it requires can sometimes create drainage concerns (in your yard or your neighbor's) that will disappear when the yard is established and requires normal watering. It is your responsibility to adjust sprinkler time clock settings a few weeks after move in.

Apply appropriate fertilizer as well as weed and pest controls as needed for optimal growth. Investigate organic compounds for additional protection of the environment.

Sprinkler System

If Liberty Homes included a sprinkler system with your home, we can have the installer demonstrate the system and make final adjustments shortly after you move in at your request. The installer will note and correct any deficiencies in the system at that time.

Whether we install your sprinkler system or you install it yourself, keep these points in mind:

- You are responsible for routine cleaning and adjusting sprinkler heads.
- You are responsible for shutting the system down in the fall. This includes draining all lines and draining and/or removing the backflow preventer. Failure to drain the system before freezing temperatures occur can result in broken lines and damage to the backflow preventer, all of which will be your responsibility to repair. While Liberty Homes offers information on winterizing your system, it is not a replacement for the work of a professional, and because the work is not supervised, we cannot guarantee the results if you choose to do the work yourself. It is recommended you hire a professional to ensure the best results.
- Conduct weekly operational checks to ensure proper performance of the system.
- Direct sprinkler heads away from the home. Trickle or bubble-type irrigation systems are recommended for use adjacent to your home's foundation.

Automatic timers permit you to water at optimum times whether you are at home, away, awake, or asleep. The amount of water provided to each zone can be accurately and consistently controlled and easily adjusted with a timed system.

If you will be adding sprinklers to your landscaping yourself or redo Liberty Homes-installed landscaping, sprinklers should be placed no closer than four feet to the perimeter foundation of the house. Sprinklers should be pointed outwards, away from the house. If you make any changes to the original sprinkler system, it will void any warranty on it.

Stones and Rocks

The soil in your area may have stones and rocks. Removing these naturally occurring elements is a homeowner maintenance activity. If Liberty Homes installs sod, large rocks will be picked up and surface raking performed. You will need to provide continued attention to this condition as you care for your yard.

Trees

Trees and other plant materials that exist on the lot when construction begins and are not part of any landscaping installed by Liberty Homes are excluded from warranty coverage.

Utility Lines

A slight depression may develop in the front lawn along the line of the utility trench. To correct this, roll back the sod, spread topsoil underneath to level the area, and then relay the sod.

Before any significant digging, check the location of buried service leads by calling the local utility locating service. In most cases, wires and pipes run in a straight line from the main service to the public supply. See also Easements.

Weeds

Weeds will appear in your new lawn whether seed or sod is used. Left un-landscaped, your yard will begin to show weeds even quicker. When soil is disturbed, dormant seeds come to the surface and germinate. The best control is a healthy lawn, achieved through regular care and attention.

Xeriscape®

Liberty Homes recommends careful consideration of landscape design and selection of planting materials to minimize the demands of your yard on water supplies. Detailed information about Xeriscape® is available from reputable nurseries. This has the triple benefit of helping the environment, saving on water bills, and reducing the amount of moisture that can reach your foundation. There are also government programs that provide cash for installing water-wise landscaping.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Watering systems

Watering systems installed by Liberty Homes are warranted against installation and product defects for one growing season unless water system is modified after installation. All adjustments to spray heads after closing are your responsibility.

Plants, sod, and trees

Liberty Homes will confirm the healthy condition of all plant materials during the orientation, as well as the condition of the sprinkler system. Maintaining landscaping is your responsibility. Neglect will void the warranty. Plants, sod, and trees are warranted for 30 days from date of closing or landscape completion, whichever is later.

Weatherization

Remember to weatherize your system each fall before temperatures reach freezing. Failure to perform this task voids your warranty, and any damage that results from it is your responsibility.

MILDEW AND MOLD

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

You can prevent most mold and mildew growth by minimizing moisture. Common sources of moisture are spills, leaks, overflows, condensation, and high humidity. If the growing conditions are right, mold can develop within 24 to 48 hours. We suggest checking your roof, windows, water pipes, and drainpipes for mold and mildew.

Tips to Help Prevent Mold and Mildew

- You should promptly clean up spills, condensation, and other sources of moisture and replace materials that cannot be thoroughly dried, such as drywall or insulation.
- You should repair leaks immediately.
- Avoid over-watering of landscaping.
- Always use an exhaust fan or open a window where there is not a fan during a bath or shower to help decrease water vapor.
- Keeping your air conditioner running, or using a dehumidifier, will also remove moisture from the air.
- Periodically inspect for leaks by looking for discoloration or wet spots, musty odors, and any signs of mold growth.

Cleaning mold and mildew in your home is your responsibility. If you find mold in your home, you should clean it with a mild solution of bleach after testing to see if the area is color safe. After cleaning, you should thoroughly dry the area and use a disinfectant to retard mildew growth and eliminate odors. Discard porous materials like upholstery or carpet. If the mold is severe, you should call a qualified professional. For mildew, solutions to remove it are available from local paint and home improvement stores. Wear protective eyewear and rubber gloves for this task as the chemicals that remove mildew are unfriendly to humans.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

We will remove any mold or mildew noted during the orientation. Liberty Homes' warranty excludes any subsequent mold and mildew.

MIRRORS

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

To clean your mirrors, use any reliable liquid glass cleaner or polisher, available at most hardware or grocery stores. Avoid acidic cleaners and splashing water under the mirror, as either can cause the silvering to deteriorate. Acidic cleaners are usually those that contain ammonia or vinegar. Avoid getting glass cleaners on plumbing fixtures as some formulas can deteriorate the finish.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Liberty Homes will confirm that all mirrors are in acceptable condition during the orientation. We will correct scratches, cracks, chips, or other defects to mirrors noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form, and those will be signed off as completed on the form. Subsequent scratches, cracks, chips, and defects are your responsibility.

PAINT AND STAIN

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Painted surfaces must be washed gently using mild soap and as little water as possible. Avoid abrasive cleaners, scouring pads, or scrub brushes. Flat paints show washing marks more easily than gloss paints do. Often better results come from touching up rather than washing the paint.

Colors

Your selection sheets are your record of the paint and stain color names, numbers, and brands in your home.

We provide leftover samples of the paint used in your home. Store these with the lids tightly in place and in a location where they are not exposed to extreme temperatures.

Exposure to Sunlight

Paint, both interior and exterior, may fade if it is in constant direct sunlight. Install window coverings and use them when direct sunlight comes in to help prevent fading.

Exterior

If any exterior surfaces of your home are treated with stain or paint, they will need to be checked annually for wear. The durability of your paint and stain depends partially on the amount of sunlight they receive. Surfaces that receive direct sunlight and wind will peel, blister, and fade sooner than other painted and stained surfaces. Having sprinklers spray water on the exterior of your home will also cause blistering, peeling, splintering, and other damage. Adjust sprinklers so they do not spray your home.

Plan on refinishing the exterior surface of your home every two to three years or as often as your paint manufacturer recommends for your area and climate. Repaint before much chipping or wearing away of the original surface occurs, which will save you the cost of extensive surface preparation. If you undertake touchup work on your paint or stain, make sure the surface is clean and smooth. This may require resetting popped nails and removing old paint or some minor sanding of rough spots.

Severe Weather

Hail and wind can cause a great deal of damage in a severe storm, so inspect your home after such weather. Promptly report any damage caused by severe weather to your insurance company.

Stain

Wood naturally varies in color. When stain is applied to the wood, the stain may also have color variation because of the wood characteristics. Light stains require more maintenance because imperfections will show through easier. When touching up your stain, follow the instructions on the label of the product you are using.

Touch-Up

When doing paint touch-ups, use a small brush or roller, applying paint only to the damaged spot. Touch-up may not match the surrounding area exactly, even if the same paint mix is used.

The best time to repair imperfections in the drywall is just before repainting. Please see the Drywall section of this manual for more information.

When it's time to repaint a room, prepare the wall surface first by cleaning it with a mild soap and water mixture or a reliable cleaning product. Make sure the surface is completely dry before painting.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

During your orientation Liberty Homes will confirm that all painted or stained surfaces are in acceptable condition and will repair any items noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form at that time. Those repairs will be signed off as completed on the form. Your Limited Warranty only includes paint touch-ups required as a result of a warranty issue (for example, repainting patched drywall after a plumbing leak). Please note that when the repaired areas are repainted, Liberty Homes will use the same paint that was on the surface when the home was delivered only, and paint will be applied to the repaired area only. Due to the effects of time on paint and possible dye lot variations, touch-ups may not match the surrounding area. Repainting the entire wall or entire room to correct this is your choice and your responsibility. If you repainted, put up wallpaper, or otherwise changed the paint after the home was delivered, you will be responsible for that part of the repair. Paint deterioration caused by normal living conditions, including repeated scrubbing or scouring, are not covered. These repairs are the responsibility of the homeowner. If you would like the contact info for our painter for non-covered repairs paid at your own expense, we are happy to provide that to you.

Cracking

As it ages, exterior wood trim will develop minor cracks and raised grain. Much of this will occur during the first year. Raised grain permits moisture to get under the paint and can result in peeling. This is not a defect in materials or workmanship. Paint maintenance of wood trim is your responsibility.

Fading

Expect fading of exterior paint or stain caused by the effects of sun and weather. Liberty Homes' Limited Warranty excludes this occurrence.

Touch-Up Visible

Paint touch-up will be visible under certain lighting conditions. Slight differences in sheen are not covered under this warranty.

Wood Grain

Because of wood characteristics, color variations will result when stain is applied to wood. This is natural and requires no repair. Today's water-based paints often make wood grain visible on painted trim. Liberty Homes does not provide corrections for this condition.

PESTS AND WILDLIFE

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Insects such as ants, spiders, wasps, and bees, as well as animal life such as woodpeckers, squirrels, mice, and snakes, may fail to recognize that your home belongs to you. Addressing concerns involving these pests and wildlife comes with being a homeowner.

Making sure your home is well sealed is a good start to keeping it free of pests. Inside your home, small changes can have a big impact on pest control. Keeping food covered and stored properly is important. Crumbs and food attract pests to enter your home. Keeping garments and other clothing in appropriate linen bags will keep them from being damaged by pests.

Ants

Ants are attracted to crumbs and food left out, so storing food properly will help reduce the chance of an ant infestation. If you have outdoor animals, it is a good idea to not leave pet food out overnight. If you have taken every precaution and still find your home has an ant problem, the first step is to find where the ants are gaining entry and where their nest is located. Simply following the trail of ants will help you find the source of the problem. When eliminating ant nests, be careful and follow all instructions on ant removal product.

Caulking

Window and door frames should be caulked. There should be no small spaces that insects can enter.

Landscaping/Yard Cleanup

Clearing the area around your home of leaves, plants, and other debris will also remove places where bugs thrive.

If your home has a wood pile, move it to a location away from your home.

Mice/Rats

Controlling your garbage is the first step in stopping mice and rats. These rodents need a place to live and food to eat. If you eliminate this, you should not have a problem. Signs to look for if you think you may have a problem are rodent droppings, things that have been gnawed on, and mice tracks. Using commercial rat and mice eliminators are a good option if you have a problem, but with any fix be careful of poisons that have the potential of harming pets and children. When cleaning up after a rodent problem, be careful and contact a pest control company for tips on safety.

Settling

As your home settles, check windows and doors that might have moved out of alignment and provide openings for pests.

Termites

We treat the foundation of your home for termites and can provide you with a copy of the certificate confirming that treatment upon request. Subsequent termite treatments and treatments for other types of insects or animal infestation are your responsibility.

The signs of a termite infestation are dirt tunnels near the foundation of your home, tunnels hollowed into wood in your home, and simply finding winged termites inside your home. Regularly inspect your home for signs of termites or conditions that would allow their attack:

- Check for wrinkles or waves in wood trim.
- Tap wood to see if it sounds or feels hollow.
- Inspect under the carpet tack strip by lifting the edge of carpet in the corner of a room. The tack strip is untreated and provides a convenient path for termites through your home.
- Watch for tubes of dirt, called mud tubes, which extend from the soil up to your home.
- Keep soil away from any wood parts of your home.
- Be certain all roof water and precipitation moves quickly away from your home's foundation.
- Avoid storing wood on the ground and against your home.
- Maintain a safe zone of at least two feet in width around the perimeter of your home. Avoid planting grass or shrubs, installing any sprinkler device, or digging of any kind in this area. If you disturb this area, have it re-treated to restore protection.
- Before installing stepping stones, river rock, concrete, or so on against the home, chemically treat the area that will be underneath the new material.
- If you add onto or change the exterior of your home, be sure to have the areas treated first.

If your home has a termite problem, professional help may be required.

Vents

Check the vents in your attic to make sure there are screens across any openings which can prevent pests from entering your home.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Liberty Homes includes no warranty for insect or pest intrusion.

PLUMBING

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Maintaining the plumbing system in your home is very important. Any sort of leak should be taken care of immediately. Small leaks can cause major damage if left unfixed.

You should turn off the water whenever you work on your plumbing system. You can either turn off the water specifically to the sink or toilet you are working on, or to your whole house. All toilets and sinks have shut off valves usually located right under them. The water shutoff to your home is usually located next to the water main. It is a good idea to identify the shutoff when you move in so that you will be prepared if you ever have a plumbing emergency.

Aerators

Even though your plumbing lines have been flushed to remove dirt and foreign matter, small amounts of minerals may enter the line. Aerators on the faucets strain much of this from your water. Minerals caught in these aerators may cause the faucets to drip because washers wear more rapidly when they come in contact with foreign matter. It also can happen faster in areas where the water has very hard mineral deposits. See also Leaky and Dripping Faucet.

Basement Construction

If you perform any construction in your basement, ensure that the plumbing lines in the basement or crawl space are not isolated from the heating source without insulation being added. Do not cover clean out access fittings.

Caulking

Caulking around your plumbing fixtures is important for keeping water from damaging surrounding areas. You should check periodically that the caulk around sinks, showers, and tubs is in good condition, not crumbling or missing. Also, periodically check tub and shower door seals for leaks.

Please note, the fiberglass shower/tub combos installed by Liberty Homes are four-piece tubs with openings/seams that are normal and do not need caulking/sealing. There is an overlapping flange that is at each of those locations, preventing water from reaching the drywall.

Cleaning

Follow manufacturer's directions for cleaning fixtures. Avoid abrasive cleansers containing ammonia or vinegar. Clean plumbing fixtures with a soft sponge and soapy water, then polish with a dry cloth to prevent water spots.

IMPORTANT: The use of any automatic toilet cleaners that are applied inside the toilet tank will void the warranty. In-tank cleaners can damage the rubber, metal, and plastic components of tank parts, which in turn can cause leaks.

Clogs

The main causes of toilet clogs are domestic items such as disposable diapers, excessive amounts of toilet paper, sanitary supplies, Q-tips, dental floss, and children's toys. Improper garbage disposal use also causes many plumbing clogs. Always use plenty of cold water when running the disposal. This recommendation also applies to grease. Supplied with a steady flow of cold water, the grease congeals and is cut up by the blades. If you use hot water, the grease remains a liquid, then cools and solidifies in the sewer line. Allow the water to run 10 to 15 seconds after shutting off the disposal.

You can usually clear clogged traps with a plunger. If you use chemical agents, follow directions carefully to avoid personal injury or damage to the fixtures.

Clean a plunger drain stopper, usually found in bathroom sinks, by loosening the nut under the sink at the back, pulling out the rod attached to the plunger, and lifting the stopper. Clean and return the mechanism to its original position.

Extended Absence

If you plan to be away for an extended period, you should turn off your water supply lines and unplug your softener if you have one. You may also wish to shut off the water heater. Keep the pilot on and set the temperature to its lowest or "vacation" setting. Check manufacturer's directions for additional hints and instructions.

Fiberglass Fixtures/Tubs

For normal cleaning use a nonabrasive bathroom cleanser and sponge or nylon cleaning pad. Avoid steel wool, scrapers, and scouring pads. Auto wax can provide a shine and restore an attractive appearance.

Freezing Pipes

Provided the home is heated at a normal level, pipes should not freeze at temperatures above 0°F. Set the heat at a minimum of 55°F if you are away during winter months. Keep garage doors closed to protect plumbing lines running through this area from freezing temperatures.

In unusually frigid weather, or if you will be gone more than a day or two, open the cabinet doors under sinks in the bathrooms and kitchen to allow warm air to circulate around pipes. Use an ordinary hair dryer to thaw pipes that are frozen. Never use an open flame.

Laundry Sink

If you have a laundry room sink, the faucet does not have an aerator. This is to allow the laundry tub faucet to accept a hose connection.

Leaky and Dripping Faucets

There are a few reasons that a faucet in your home may leak. If you notice a leak around the base of a faucet, it may need to be tightened. When tightening bolts on plumbing hardware such as faucets always cover the bolt with a soft cloth and then use a wrench to tighten. Without the cloth you could damage the metal finish. Consult the manufacturer of the faucets if this does not work.

If your faucet is dripping, it may be due to a dirty aerator or a worn-out washer. Aerators should be regularly checked and cleaned to remove dirt and foreign matter. If cleaning the aerator does not stop the drip, replace the washer: turn off water using valve under the sink, remove the faucet stem, change washer, and reinstall faucet stem. A dripping shower head can be repaired the same way. Replace the washer with another of the same type and size. You can minimize the frequency of this repair by not turning faucets off with excessive force. (Please note that some manufacturers do not use rubber washers – check with your manufacturer for more information.)

Leaky/Running Toilets

Toilets that leak near the floor may have an old or defective seal. The seal will need to be replaced as soon as possible to avoid water damage.

If your toilet continues to run after flushing, check the shut-off float to see if it has lifted too high in the tank. If that is the case, pull straight up on the float until it stops the water at the correct level. Also, check the chain or rubber lift on the flush handle – if it is too tight, it will prevent the rubber stopper at the bottom of the tank from sealing. If these do not solve the problem, the flapper may not have a tight enough seal and should be replaced. Replacement parts can be found at a local hardware store, or if the toilet is still under warranty you can talk with the manufacturer. Do not use bleach tablets or toilet drops that have bleach because these will deteriorate the flapper and washers and may void the warranty.

Modifications

If you wish to make any modifications, we recommend contacting the plumbing company listed on the Emergency Phone Numbers list in this handbook. Doing modifications yourself or having another plumbing company modify your system during the warranty period may void that portion of your Limited Warranty.

Slow Draining Sinks/Bathtub

Sinks or bathtubs that are draining slowly could be the result of product build-up or clogging. In the bathroom, hair, styling products, and shaving cream are common causes, while coffee grounds, potato peels, rice, and grease are often the culprits in the kitchen. To help remove clogs and buildup:

- Try using a plunger and cleaning out any buildup.
- If this does not work you can use a commercial drain cleaner, but make sure to follow the instructions.
- If all else fails a plumber may need to be called.

Shut-Offs

The water supply to your home can be shut off entirely in two locations. The first is at the meter and the second is at the main water shut-off in the basement or near where the main water line enters the home. You should use this shut-off for major water emergencies such as a water line break, installing a sprinkler system, or building an addition to your home. Each toilet has a shut-off on the water line under the tank. Hot and cold shutoffs for each sink are on the water lines underneath. We will review these during your orientation.

Sprinklers

You should routinely inspect sprinkler heads and provide seasonal service to maintain proper operation. See also Landscaping/Sprinklers.

Stainless Steel

Clean stainless steel sinks with soap and water to preserve their luster. Avoid using abrasive cleaners or steel wool pads, as these will damage the finish. Also prevent bleach from coming into prolonged contact with the sink, as it can pit the surface. An occasional cleaning with a good stainless steel cleaner will enhance the finish and keep things looking as good as new. Rub in the direction of the polish or grain lines and dry the sink to prevent water spots. Also, a baking soda paste with soft cloth will work to remove film and leave the sink clean and shiny.

Avoid leaving produce on a stainless steel surface; prolonged contact can stain the finish. Also avoid using the sink as a cutting board, as sharp knives will gouge the finish.

Water Filter or Softener

If you install either a water filter or a water softener, carefully read the manufacturer's literature and warranty for your specific model.

TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

No Water Anywhere in the Home

Before calling for service, check to confirm the following:

- Water service is not shut off in your area.
- Main shut off on the meter inside your home is open.
- Main shut off at the street is open.
- Individual shut-offs for each water-using item is open

No Hot Water

- See Water Heater

Leak Involving One Sink, Tub, or Toilet

- Check caulking and grout.
- Confirm shower door or tub enclosure was properly closed.
- Turn water supply off to that item.
- Use other facilities in your home and if you are within the one year Liberty Homes warranty timeframe then report the problem by submitting a warranty request.

Leak Involving a Main Line

- Turn water off at the meter in your home.
- Call emergency number for the plumber listed in the Emergency section for service.

Back Up at One Toilet

If only one toilet is affected, corrections occur during normal business hours.

- Shut off the water supply to the toilet involved.
- Use a plunger to clear the blockage.
- Use a snake to clear the blockage.
- If you've been in your home fewer than 30 days, contact Liberty Homes or the plumber listed on your Emergency Phone Numbers sheet.
- If you've been in your home over 30 days, contact a roofer service.

Sewer Back Up Affecting Entire Home

- If you've been in your home fewer than 30 days, contact Liberty Homes or the plumber listed on your Emergency Phone Numbers sheet.
- If you've been in your home over 30 days, contact a roofer service.
- Remove personal belongings to a safe location. If items are soiled, contact your homeowner insurance company.

Sewer Smell at Laundry Room or Mechanical Room

Floor drains incorporate a P-trap in them to eliminate sewer gases from backing up into your home. The P-trap is designed to use water to block the sewer gases, so if the P-trap dries out, this can result in a drain that smells bad. Pour water into the trap every few weeks or when you notice a smell.

No Hot Water at Master Bathtub

Increase the temperature to the hot water valve on the tub by locating the temperature control valve under the master vanity sink (between the hot and cold lines). Loosen the screw on the top of the turn valve, lift up on the valve and increase or decrease as desired.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

During the orientation Liberty Homes will confirm that all plumbing fixtures are in acceptable condition and are functioning properly, and that all faucets and drains operate freely.

Clogged Drain

Liberty Homes will correct clogged drains that occur during the first 30 days after closing. If a household item is removed from a clogged drain during this time, we will bill you for the drain service. After the first 30 days, you are responsible for correcting clogged drains.

Cosmetic Damage

Liberty Homes will correct any fixture damage noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form. Subsequent damage will be your responsibility.

Exterior Faucets

Liberty Homes will repair leaks at exterior faucets noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form. After orientation, repair of a broken line to an exterior faucet is your responsibility. Garden hoses should never be left attached to faucets in freezing conditions, as this may cause them to leak or burst. For secondary damages, such as personal belongings, insurance should cover these items.

Laundry Floor Drain Pan

Liberty Homes offers a laundry floor drain pan that can be selected as an optional feature. It should be noted that this option is available as a means of capturing and discharging minor leaks that can occur from directly within the plumbing of the washing machine, or possibly an overflow, and is limited to that purpose. It is not designed to contain all types of leaks that can occur in the Laundry Room plumbing systems. For example, leaks from sources such as, but not limited to, burst supply hoses, faucet hose connection leaks, or dislodged waste water hoses will not be contained by the laundry floor drain pan, and subsequent damage from these types of leaks is not covered under the Limited Warranty, with or without the optional laundry floor drain pan installed.

Modifications

Any warranty otherwise provided for the plumbing system is voided upon person(s) changing, modifying, adding to, or tampering with the plumbing system in any way.

Noise

Changes in temperature or the flow of the water itself will cause some noise in the water and drain pipes. Drain pipes will expand and contract as hot water flows through them, causing a ticking sound inside the wall. This is normal and requires no repair. Liberty Homes will attempt to repair persistent water hammer. Expect temperatures to vary if water is used in more than one location in the home at the exact same time. See also Expansion and Contraction.

Supply

Liberty Homes will correct construction conditions that disrupt the supply of water to your home if they involve service from the main water supply, provided actions of yours have not caused the problem. Disruption of service due to failure of the water department system is the responsibility of the water department to correct.

RAILINGS

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Stained or wrought iron railings in your home require little maintenance beyond occasional dusting or polishing. Protect railings from sharp objects or moisture. Cover them during move-in so large pieces of furniture do not cause dents or scratches.

Stained railings will show variation in the way the wood grain takes the stain. Some designs may show seams where pieces of wood came together to form the railing.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

During the orientation, Liberty Homes will confirm that all railings are in good condition and repair, stain, or paint any cosmetic deficiencies noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form, and those will be signed off as completed on the form. Subsequent repairs are your responsibility.

Liberty Homes installs railings in positions and locations to comply with applicable building codes. Railings should remain securely attached with normal use. If railings become loose during your one-year warranty period, submit a warranty request, and Liberty Homes will schedule an inspection to determine possible causes and if it qualifies for repair.

ROOF

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Maintaining your roof is a very important part of regular upkeep.

Clean Gutters

Maintain the gutters and downspouts so that they are free of debris and able to quickly drain precipitation from the roof.

Ice Dam

On occasion, depending on conditions and exposure, rising heat from inside your home can melt snow on the roof. When this happens, that water can run down and reach the cold eaves, causing it to freeze. An accumulation of this type of ice dams the subsequent runoff and the water begins to back up, overflowing the gutter system or sometimes working its way up under shingles, ultimately leading into your home through windows or ceilings. If you notice ice dams forming, remove them as soon as possible to prevent such damage.

If your home design or orientation makes it vulnerable to this occurrence, you may want to install electric heat tape in the susceptible areas. You can contact a roofer to break away the remaining ice if you wish.

Leaks

If a leak occurs, try to detect the exact location. This will greatly simplify finding the area that requires repair when the roof is dry.

Limit Walking

Limit walking on your roof. Your weight and movement can loosen roofing material and in turn result in leaks. Never walk on the roof of your home when shingles are wet (they are slippery) or in hot weather (they are soft).

Metal Flashing

Check the metal flashing that is found around the ventilation components on your roof regularly. There should be no signs of rust, and they should be caulked where they connect to the roof.

Severe Weather

After severe storms, do a visual inspection of the roof for damage. Notify your insurance company if you find pieces of shingle in the yard or shingle edges lifted on the roof.

Shingles

Check shingles for cracks and damage that can cause leaks into your home.

Trees

You should trim any trees that grow close to your home. Tree branches can cause damage during the normal course of the day but can also cause severe damage during heavy winds.

Valleys

The areas on your roof where two angles slope downward are called valleys. Make sure there is no water that pools in these areas.

TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS: ROOF LEAKS

Please keep in mind that roof leaks cannot be repaired while the roof is wet. However, if you call in the leak, you can get on the schedule to be in line when conditions dry out.

Confirm the source of the water is from the roof and not from a:

- Plumbing leak
- Open window on a higher floor
- Ice dam
- Clogged gutter or downspout
- Blowing rain or snow coming in through code required roof vents
- Gap in caulking

Minimize potential property damage by:

- Placing a container under dripping water.
- If a ceiling is involved, using a screwdriver to poke a small hole in the drywall to release the water.
- Removing personal belongings to prevent damage to them. If damage occurs, contact your homeowner insurance company to submit a claim.
- Reporting the leak to Liberty Homes as soon as possible.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

If your roof leaks, Liberty Homes will schedule an inspection to determine possible causes and if leaks fall within the scope of warranty. Roof leaks caused by severe weather, such as heavy winds and hail damage, or some action you have taken, such as walking on the roof, are not covered by the Limited Warranty.

Roof repairs are made only when the roof is dry.

Ice Dam

An ice build-up (ice dam) may develop at or above the eaves during extended periods of cold and snow. Your homeowner insurance may cover this damage, which is excluded from this warranty.

Inclement Weather

Storm damage is excluded from warranty coverage. Notify your homeowner insurance company if storm damage is discovered.

ROUGH CARPENTRY

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Squeaks

As your home goes through the settling and drying out process in the first one or two years, floor squeaks may become noticeable. Squeaks caused by a loose subfloor are unacceptable, but totally squeak-proof floors cannot be guaranteed.

Liberty Homes will refasten any loose subfloor or take other corrective action to attempt to reduce squeaking within reasonable repair capability without removing floor or ceiling finishes. If previously unfinished areas, such as basement below flooring, have been finished, repairs may no longer be possible due to access being restricted by drywall and other finishes.

There are many possible causes of floor squeaks. One of the more common sources of squeaks is wood moving along the shank of a nail. Squeaking frequently occurs when lumber, plywood, or boards move slightly when someone walks over them. Boards and plywood may become loose due to shrinkage of the floor structure or subfloor as it dries after installation or seasonal changes in temperature and humidity. Nails used to fasten metal connectors (joist hangers, tie-down straps, etc.) may cause squeaks. Because of the nature of wood and construction methods, it is practically impossible to eliminate all squeaks during all seasons. Clearly, some squeaks are more objectionable than others.

Although Liberty Homes does not warrant against floor squeaks, a reasonable effort will be made to correct them when possible. Liberty Homes will not remove flooring or ceiling finishes to correct floor squeaks.

Floor Deflection

Floors will deflect (bend) when walked on. This will be more noticeable next to kitchen islands with granite/quartz counter tops and heavy furniture. This is normal. All beams, joists, headers, and other structural members have been sized according to the engineer's specifications, the manufacturer's specifications, and local building codes. This is not a structural deficiency, and Liberty Homes will take no action for this occurrence.

Floor Level

Floors will be level to within 1/4-inch within any 32 inch distance as measured perpendicular to any ridge or indentation. If floor slope exceeds 1/240 of the room, Liberty Homes will schedule a site visit to investigate possible causes and if it qualifies for repair.

Plumb Walls

If walls are out of plumb more than 1/2-inch in an eight-foot distance or walls are bowed more than 1/2-inch in any 32 inch measurement, Liberty Homes will schedule a site visit to inspect and determine if it qualifies for repair.

SHOWER DOORS OR TUB ENCLOSURES

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Shower doors and tub enclosures require minimal care. Using a squeegee to remove water after a bath or shower will keep mineral residue and soap film to a minimum. A coating of auto wax or Rain-X can also help prevent buildup of minerals and soap.

- Use cleaning products suggested by the manufacturer to avoid any damage to the trim and hardware.
- Avoid hanging wet towels on corners of doors; the weight can pull the door out of alignment and cause it to creak.
- Check and touch-up caulking on an as needed basis. See also Caulking.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

During your orientation, Liberty Homes will confirm the good condition of all shower doors and tub enclosures. Liberty Homes warrants that shower doors and tub enclosures will function according to manufacturer specifications.

SIDING

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Siding expands and contracts in response to changes in humidity and temperature. Slight waves are visible in siding under moist weather conditions, while shrinking and separations will be more noticeable under dry conditions. These behaviors cannot be entirely eliminated.

Drip Edges

There are times when siding boards will not be big enough to cover one area continuously and seams will be present. To protect the home from water getting in that seam and between the siding and home, a drip edge will be installed. Seams and drip edges are normal and not considered a defect.

Wood and Wood Products

Wood or wood-product siding will require routine refinishing. The timing will vary with climatic conditions, but plan on doing so every 1-3 years. Maintain caulking to minimize moisture entry into the siding, which can cause damage to the siding and the materials below it. Note that some paint colors will require more maintenance than others and some sides of the home may show signs of wear sooner based on their exposure to the elements.

Some wood siding, such as cedar, is subject to more cracking and will require more maintenance attention.

Cement Based Products

Cement based siding will require repainting and caulking just as wood products do.

Vinyl

Vinyl siding will occasionally require cleaning. Start at the top to avoid streaking and use a cleaning product recommended by your siding manufacturer. Follow directions carefully. See also Paint and Wood Trim.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Liberty Homes warrants all siding to be free of defects in material and workmanship. We will confirm the good condition of the siding during your orientation and repair any items noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form, and those will be signed off as completed on the form. Subsequent damage to the siding will be your responsibility.

If cracks exceed 3/16-inch, Liberty Homes will schedule a site visit to inspect possible causes and determine if cracks qualify for a one-time repair. For cracks Liberty Homes determines warrant repair, we will caulk and apply touch-up paint to the cracks. Paint or

stain touch-up will likely not match due to variations in dye lots and the effect of weather and time on the siding. Because this is a one-time repair, Liberty Homes recommends waiting until near the end of the first year to do it.

Other conditions that may be eligible for warranty repair are separations at joints or where siding meets another material if the separation allows water to enter the home or delaminating siding. In these instances, Liberty Homes will schedule a site visit, but such visit does not guarantee repairs will be made.

SMOKE/CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

You should consult the manufacturer's manual for complete information on the care of your smoke detectors. We recommend cleaning and testing each smoke detector monthly.

Batteries

You should change batteries every six months because fresh batteries will help to ensure that the detector works even under a loss of power to the home. If a smoke detector makes a chirping sound, it is a sign that the battery needs to be replaced. Follow manufacturer instructions for installing a new battery. Most smoke detectors use a nine volt battery.

Cleaning

For your safety, clean each smoke detector monthly to prevent a false alarm or lack of response in a fire. After cleaning, test the alarm to confirm the alarm is working. All alarms should sound when testing.

Hard-Wired Detectors

Hard-wired smoke detectors are designed for all to sound at the same time. That means if one is set off by smoke or heat, the alarm will sound on all of them. This is a safety feature to alert everyone in the event of a fire or emergency in your home.

Locations

Liberty Homes provides smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors on each level of the home that operates electrically with a battery backup. These detectors are installed in accordance with building codes, which dictate locations. Liberty Homes cannot omit any smoke detector, and you should not remove or disable any smoke detector.

Manufacturing Date/Life of Detectors

The date on the back of your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors is a manufacturing date, not an expiration date. Generally, smoke detectors have a life of 10 years from the manufacturing date. Carbon monoxide detectors or combo smoke/carbon monoxide detectors may not last as long. Refer to manufacturer's literature for information on the life of your detectors. It is recommended you replace detectors every 10 years (or sooner based on manufacturer's recommendations).

Testing

You should test your detectors by pushing the "Test" button once a month to ensure they are working properly and will protect you in the event of a fire or carbon monoxide leak.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Liberty Homes does not represent that the smoke detectors will provide the protection for which they are installed or intended. We will test smoke detectors during the orientation to confirm that they are working and to familiarize you with the alarm. Subsequent maintenance is your responsibility. You are responsible for obtaining fire insurance.

STAIRS

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

No known method of installation prevents all vibration or squeaks in a staircase. A shrinkage crack may develop where the stairs meet the wall. When this occurs, apply a thin bead of latex caulk and, when dry, touch up with paint.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Although Liberty Homes does not warrant against stair vibration and squeaks, a reasonable effort will be made to correct them without removing floor coverings.

STONE

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Exterior walls covered with stone should be regularly checked for problems such as crumbling, missing stones, and mortar that has turned sandy and crumbles. Missing stones and mortar that has deteriorated are best fixed by a professional.

The primary reason stones may fall off a home is due to moisture that infiltrates behind a stone and then freezes. As moisture freezes, it expands, which overpowers the mortar and causes the stone to separate from the home. Though all stone can experience this, it is more common in dry stack styles. Because there is no grout on the outside to hold it in place, dry stack stone is more susceptible to moisture infiltration and the loss of stones due to the expansion that occurs when water freezes. Due to the climate variations in Utah, the popping of dry stack stone is a common occurrence and does not mean that it was installed improperly. As noted in the disclosure in Addendum A, homeowners who choose to install dry stack stones accept issues that may arise with dry stack stone and accept any consequences that may arise from having dry stack stone. If you have dry stack stone, regular inspections are a very important part of homeowner maintenance.

Cleaning

When cleaning stone, do not use high pressure sprayers or acidic cleaning materials, which can damage the stone and/or mortar. If you feel more than just water is needed to clean your stone, using a sponge to apply a mild detergent solution of water and dish soap works best. Be sure to completely rinse it off with your hose when done cleaning. You can also use soft bristle brushes, but you should avoid wire brushes.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Liberty Homes will repair stones that have fallen off and mortar deterioration during the one-year Limited Warranty period unless it is caused by homeowner's lack of maintenance, negligence, or misuse. The one-year Limited Warranty does not include any other damage caused by stones falling off the home.

If a stone or stones have fallen off and are still in-tact, please keep them so they may be reattached. If replacement stones are required, Liberty Homes will make every effort to match product but cannot guarantee a perfect match due to uncontrollable factors such as dye lot variations, weathering, and normal wear and tear.

STUCCO

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Stucco cracks are normal with some exceptions. Stucco is a brittle cement product placed over a home that expands and contracts with temperature changes. When the wood members of your home move because of this expansion, the rigid stucco base does not move, resulting in cracking. This is normal and does not reduce the function of the stucco in any way. Waterproof membranes are placed behind the stucco base coat to help prevent water intrusion when the stucco cracks.

Cleaning

Over time, stucco can accumulate dirt, grime, mold, or algae you may want to remove. The best method to clean your stucco is to rinse the surface (make sure any cracks have been filled first), wash it with soap and water, then rinse thoroughly. Do not scrub too hard and, if using a power washer, make sure the pressure level is low and you are at least 24 inches away from the stucco surface. Using too much pressure while scrubbing or rinsing can cause damage to the stucco, including discoloring it or affecting the integrity of the stucco. Discoloration and damage caused by cleaning is not covered by warranty.

Cracks

Stucco should be checked annually for cracks. Like concrete, stucco can be expected to crack. Even though there are waterproof membranes behind the stucco, cracks left unchecked can let water in and can cause damage to the structure of your home. All cracks should be repaired immediately to prevent them from getting larger. A small crack can usually be repaired with a stucco-specific caulking. Larger ones, however, may require patching which is best done by a professional.

Drainage

To ensure proper drainage, keep dirt and concrete flatwork a minimum of six inches below the stucco screed (mesh underneath final coat of stucco). Do not pour concrete or masonry over the stucco screed or right up to the foundation.

Efflorescence

The white, powdery substance that sometimes accumulates on stone and concrete products surfaces is called efflorescence. This is a natural phenomenon and cannot be prevented. Consult your home center or hardware store for commercial products to remove efflorescence.

Sprinklers

Because stucco is not a waterproof barrier, avoid spraying water from irrigation or watering systems on stucco surfaces to avoid possible leaks. Check the spray from the lawn and plant irrigation system frequently to make certain that water is not spraying or accumulating on stucco surfaces.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

There is no guarantee that stucco will not crack. Stucco cracking will NOT be covered under warranty unless it is during the initial one-year builder warranty period and meets the criteria below.

IMPORTANT: Colors cannot be exactly matched.

Cracks

If a stucco crack exceeds 1/8 of an inch in width and 24 inches in length, Liberty Homes will schedule a site visit to investigate the possible cause of the cracks and if it qualifies for repair. However, this visit does NOT guarantee stucco will be repaired. That determination will be made solely by Liberty Homes. Stucco is a brittle cement product that is subject to expansion and contraction.

Keep in mind that most often a patch stands out more than the crack itself. Colors cannot be matched.

VINYL FLOORING

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Although vinyl floors are designed for minimum care, they do have maintenance needs. Follow any manufacturer's specific recommendations for care and cleaning.

Color and Pattern

Your color selection sheets provide a record of the brand, style, and color of floor coverings in your home. Please retain this information for future reference.

Cleaning

Sweep your floor regularly (at least once a week) to remove loose dirt.

Exposure to Light and Heat

Heat and sunlight can cause vinyl flooring to fade or discolor. Make sure windows where extreme sunlight hits the floor have coverings, and close curtains or blinds during times when extreme sunlight hits the floor.

Furniture Legs

Install proper floor protectors on furniture placed on vinyl floors. Protectors will allow chairs to move easily over the floor without scuffing. Regularly clean the protectors to remove any grit that may have accumulated.

Limit Water

Wipe up spills immediately and use a vacuum to pick up crumbs instead of washing vinyl floors frequently with water. Limit mopping or washing with water, as excessive amounts of water on vinyl floors can penetrate seams and get under edges, causing the material to lift and curl.

Mats

Use a doormat outside each entrance to your home to prevent dirt, sand, grit, and other substances such as oil, asphalt, and driveway sealer from being tracked onto your floor. Use non-staining mats, and do not put latex-backed or coco-fiber mats on your floor, as they will stain or damage the surface.

Moving Appliances and Furniture

Moving appliances and furniture across vinyl floor covering can result in tears and wrinkles. These tears and wrinkles are not covered by warranty.

Install coasters on furniture legs to prevent permanent damage. If you damage the resilient floor, you can have it successfully patched by professionals. If any scraps remain when installation of your floor covering is complete, we leave them in the hope that having the matching dye lot will make such repairs less apparent.

No-Wax Flooring

The vinyl flooring installed in your home is the no-wax type. No-wax means a clear, tough coating that provides both a shiny appearance and a durable surface. However, even this surface can scuff or mark. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for maintaining the finish.

Raised Nail Heads

Raised nail heads are the result of movements of the floor joist caused by natural shrinkage and deflection. We have used special nails and glued the underlayment to help minimize this movement. If a nail head becomes visible through resilient flooring, place a block of wood over it and hit the block with a hammer to reset the nail. If this does not fix the problem, follow normal warranty request procedures.

Scrubbing and Buffing

Frequent scrubbing or electric buffing is harder on floors than regular foot traffic. Use acrylic finishes if you scrub or buff.

Slippery When Wet

Vinyl floors can be slippery when wet. Use caution when walking on a wet floor.

Seams

Because most vinyl is manufactured in six-foot widths, seams may be visible in areas larger than six feet. Any brand or type of vinyl flooring may separate slightly due to shrinkage. Seams can lift or curl if excessive moisture is allowed to penetrate them. You can use a special caulking at tub or floor joints to seal seams at those locations. Avoid getting large amounts of water on the floor from baths and showers.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Liberty Homes will confirm that vinyl flooring is in an acceptable condition during your orientation and will repair any defects noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form. Subsequent repairs are your responsibility. Liberty Homes' Limited Warranty does not cover damage to vinyl floors caused by moving furniture or appliances into the home.

Liberty Homes is not responsible for discontinued selections.

Adhesion

Vinyl floor covering should adhere firmly. If lifting, bubbling, and nail pops appear on the surface during your first year, submit a warranty request, and Liberty Homes will schedule a site visit to investigate possible causes and if it qualifies for repair.

Ridges

Liberty Homes has sanded and filled the joints of underlayment to minimize the possibility of ridges showing through vinyl floor coverings. Ridging is measured by centering a six-inch straight edge perpendicular to the ridge with one end tight to the floor. If the opposite end of the straight edge is 1/8-inch or more from the floor, Liberty Homes will schedule a site visit to inspect and determine if it qualifies for repair.

Seams

Seams will occur and are sealed at the time of installation. If gaps are in excess of 1/16-inch where vinyl flooring pieces meet or 1/8-inch where vinyl flooring meets another material, Liberty Homes will schedule a site visit to determine possible causes and if it qualifies for repair. Curling seams will be inspected to determine possible causes and if they qualify for repairs. Curling seams caused by excessive water are not covered.

VENTILATION

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Proper ventilation is important for your health and safety. While it may seem that having an airtight home can reduce your energy bills, it creates a concern because homes that are not properly ventilated are susceptible to serious risks. Condensation, cooking odors, indoor pollutants, radon, and carbon monoxide may all accumulate if there is not proper ventilation in your home. Do not cover the ventilation vents in your home's soffit (located in the underside of the overhangs) or the combustion of air return vents near the furnace and water heater. Also, use the hood fan when you are cooking and run bath fans when bathrooms are in use.

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

Proper ventilation is the best way to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

- You should never burn charcoal indoors or in the garage.
- Never leave your car running in the garage.
- Make sure fuel-burning appliances are properly maintained.

As mentioned in the Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detectors section, Liberty Homes provides detectors on each level of the home that detects both smoke and CO. Detecting carbon monoxide can be lifesaving. We suggest using a detector that meets Underwriters Laboratory "UL 2034" requirements and following the directions.

Radon

Radon is a naturally occurring, hazardous material that can enter a home from soil surrounding the home. Although radon is invisible and odorless, radon detection kits can make detecting it easy. They are available at your local hardware store. For more information, you may call the National Radon Information Line at: 1-800-SOS-RADON.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Liberty Homes warranty guidelines for active components (for example, exhaust fans) are discussed under the appropriate headings (such as electrical system, heating system, and so on).

WATER HEATER: TRADITIONAL TANK

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Carefully read and follow your owner's manual for best practices and maintenance. All water heaters have a control mechanism to govern water temperature. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends setting the water heater at 120 degrees Fahrenheit or lower to prevent scalding. The lower the temperature setting, the less fuel is used and the lower your utility bill will be.

Air Intake

Regularly check to make sure the air intake is not obstructed.

Condensation

Condensation inside your new water heater may drip onto the burner flame. This causes no harm and, in most cases, will disappear in a short period of time.

Drain Tank

To prolong the life of your water heater and save energy, drain the water from the tank approximately every six months. This reduces the build-up of chemical deposits from the water. Your owner's manual will have information on how to drain your tank.

Pilot

Please refer to the manufacturer's instructions on the front of the appliance.

Safety

Vacuum the area around a gas-fired water heater to prevent dust from interfering with proper flame combustion. Check exhaust vent and air shutter for debris and dust as well. Do not use the top of a heater as a storage shelf.

Temperature

The recommended thermostat setting for normal everyday use is "normal." Higher settings can result in wasted energy dollars and increase the danger of injury from scalding. Hot water will take longer to arrive at sinks, tubs, and showers that are farther from the water heater.

TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

Before calling for service, check to confirm that the:

- Pilot is lit. (Directions will be found on the tank.)
- Temperature setting is not on "vacation" or too low.
- Water supply valve is open.

Refer to the manufacturer's literature for specific locations of these items and other troubleshooting tips.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Refer to the manufacturer's Limited Warranty for information regarding coverage of the water heater.

WATER HEATER: TANKLESS

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Carefully read and follow your owner's manual for best practices and maintenance. All water heaters have a control mechanism to govern water temperature. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends setting the water heater at 120 degrees Fahrenheit or lower to prevent scalding. The lower the temperature setting, the less fuel is used and the lower your utility bill will be.

Air Intake

Regularly check to make sure the air intake is not obstructed.

Maintenance

Check your owner's manual for specific maintenance needed and how often it is needed on your tankless water heater. Routine maintenance (typically every year) may include cleaning the filter; cleaning the heat exchanger thoroughly if build-up or blockage is found; and descaling the tank. It is recommended you hire a professional to handle all maintenance and repairs. If you choose to do maintenance yourself, you may void your manufacturer's warranty.

Pilot/Ignition

Most tankless water heaters use a burner lit by ignition, so there is no standing pilot light. Please refer to the manufacturer's instructions for ignition information.

Temperature

Your water heater is set by the factory to 120 degrees, and for safety reasons, it will not go above that temperature using the arrows on the front of the heater. Due to liability reasons and following CPSC guidelines, Liberty Homes' installers will not set a tankless water heater temperature higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit, and we do not recommend adjusting it to a higher temperature.

To adjust the temperature, use the up and down arrows on the right of the display, which will change the temperature in 2-degree increments. If the power goes out, the heater will automatically readjust back to the 120-degree factory preset, and you will need to readjust to your preferences.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Refer to the manufacturer's Limited Warranty for information regarding coverage of the water heater.

WATER SOFTENERS

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

If your home has a water softener, you will need to read the manual to find out what sort of maintenance it requires. A water softener that has automatic regeneration should be set to regenerate no less than once every two weeks. A water softener that does not automatically regenerate will need it done manually. Consult your owner's manual for instructions on doing this. You should periodically check the salt level in your water softener and refill with salt when necessary.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Refer to the manufacturer's Limited Warranty for information regarding coverage of the water softener.

WINDOWS, SCREENS, SLIDING GLASS DOORS

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Windows and sliding glass doors are an important element of your home. Since they open your home to the outside environment, they need to be examined frequently. Contact a glass company for re-glazing of any windows that break. Glass is difficult to install without special tools.

Condensation

Condensation or sweat on interior window surfaces is the result of high humidity within the home and low outside temperatures. Decrease your interior humidity and improve weather stripping to resolve. Condensation that accumulates between the panes of glass indicates a broken seal, and the window will need to be replaced.

Screen Storage and Maintenance

Many homeowners remove and store screens for the winter to allow more light into the home. To make re-installation more convenient, label each screen as you remove it. Use caution: screens perforate easily, and the frames bend if they are not handled with care. Prior to re-installing the screen, clean them with a hose. Damage caused by removing screens will not be covered by warranty.

Sills

Windowsills should be checked frequently. Look for signs of softness or rotting, hardware that is out of line, and places where the paint has been damaged. If a gap exists, you should apply caulking between the window and windowsill. Because paint protects the windowsill from outside elements, you should repair damaged paint quickly. We suggest using a wood preservative and a high-quality primer before repainting. If there is a lot of damage, you may need to consult with a qualified professional.

Sliding Glass Doors

Sliding glass doors are made with tempered glass, which is more difficult to break than ordinary glass. If broken, tempered glass breaks into small pieces rather than large splinters which can easily cause injury.

It is your responsibility to ensure the weep holes are clear of debris.

Vinyl doors and windows are flexible and may bump the frame when closing. This is normal and requires no repair.

Keep sliding door tracks clean for smooth operation and to prevent damage to the door frame and rollers. Silicone lubricants work well for these tracks.

Sticking Windows

Most sliding windows are designed for a 10-pound pull. If sticking occurs or excessive pressure is required to open or close a window, apply a silicone lubricant, available at hardware stores. Avoid petroleum-based products and especially WD-40.

Weep Holes

In heavy rains, water may collect in the bottom channel of window frames. Weep holes are provided to allow excess water to escape to the outside. Keep the bottom window channels and weep holes free of dirt and debris for proper operation.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Liberty Homes will confirm that all windows, screens, and sliding glass doors are in acceptable condition during the orientation. Liberty Homes will repair or replace broken windows or damaged screens noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form. Subsequent damage is your responsibility. Windows should operate with reasonable ease and locks should perform as designed. If they do not, Liberty Homes will provide adjustments before occupancy.

Condensation

Liberty Homes provides no corrective measure for condensation.

Condensation that accumulates between the panes of glass in dual-glazed windows indicates a broken seal. If this occurs during the warranty period, submit a warranty request, and Liberty Homes will schedule a site visit to investigate potential causes and if it qualifies for replacement.

Infiltration

Some air and dust will infiltrate around windows, especially before the installation of landscaping in the general area. The Liberty Homes warranty excludes this occurrence.

Locks

Liberty Homes verifies proper function of the sliding door locks at your orientation. Subsequent adjustments and maintenance of locks is your responsibility.

Scratches

Liberty Homes confirms that all window glass is in an acceptable condition at your orientation and will repair any scratches noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form only. Repair of subsequent scratches is your responsibility. Minor scratches on windows can result from delivery, handling, and other construction activities.

Tinting

Liberty Homes does not warrant damage to glazing or frames due to homeowner installation of window tinting.

Tracks

Sliding patio doors and screens shall slide properly on their tracks at the time of substantial completion of the project. The cleaning and maintenance necessary to preserve proper operation are homeowner responsibilities. Sliding doors and windows may bump the frame when closing. This is normal and requires no repairs.

WINDOW WELLS

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Window wells are a structural element that serves several purposes, including providing emergency egress, helping prevent moisture damage to basement windows that are at or below grade, and allowing sunlight into below-grade rooms.

Cleaning

Snow, debris, and leaves can pile up in your window well. If left unattended, they can prevent proper water drainage, which could damage windows and allow water to enter your basement. Regularly clean your window well to ensure water can properly drain. While cleaning, inspect connectors and the area where the window well connects to the exterior of your home. Over time, weather cycles and natural expansion and contraction can cause the connectors to become loose and/or can cause cracks in the exterior material where the window well is connected. Tighten loose connections and fill any cracks immediately to prevent more damage and water from entering your home.

Fill Material/Rocks

Liberty Homes fills window wells with materials according to code, and it is inspected to ensure compliance. Materials may vary slightly due to availability, including from window well to window well on the same home. Over time as you clean out debris and do other maintenance work, the fill material may need to be replenished or replaced. Replenishing or replacing fill material is homeowner maintenance.

Grading, Gutters, and Downspouts

Water naturally flows to lower areas of a yard. Because window wells are one of the lowest points in the yard, water may flow into and fill your window wells if there is not proper grading and drainage. It is your responsibility to maintain proper grading so water flows away from your home. Also, make sure gutters and downspouts are clear of debris and positioned correctly. See Grading and Drainage and Gutters and Downspouts.

Heavy Rain or Snow

During heavy precipitation periods, window wells can get waterlogged. You should inspect window wells after heavy rain or snow for pooling water or damage. If there is standing water in your window wells, remove it immediately. If water has entered your basement and caused damage due to heavy precipitation, consult your insurance company. Following heavy snow events, clear snow out of the window wells as soon as possible to prevent excess water in the wells from snow melt.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

Liberty Homes installs all window wells in accordance with code, and they are inspected during the building process to ensure code compliance.

Bulges

Bulges in window wells can happen during the construction process, caused by compacting soil. Window wells are inspected to ensure they are in acceptable condition and within industry standards. Liberty Homes' Limited Warranty does not cover window well replacement or repair on wells that have passed inspection. In the extremely rare instance a window well does not pass inspection and cannot be repaired or replaced prior to closing, that will be noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form, and only items noted on the form will be repaired or replaced. All other window well repairs are the homeowner's responsibility.

Covers

Liberty Homes only installs window well covers if required by code. If covers are installed, Liberty Homes confirms they are in good condition during your orientation. Liberty Homes will repair any damage noted on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form only, and such repairs will be signed off as completed on the form. Any subsequent repairs are the homeowner's responsibility. If you wish to add covers to window wells not required to have one by code, that is your responsibility.

Fill Material

Liberty Homes fills window wells with materials according to code, and it is inspected to ensure compliance. Materials may vary slightly due to availability, including from window well to window well on the same home. Liberty Homes' Limited Warranty does not include changing or replacing material.

Ladders

The number of egress ladders and the location(s) are determined by code and are inspected for compliance. Due to this, Liberty Homes cannot and will not move or remove ladders, and you should not move or remove them either. If you wish to have a ladder in a window well where Liberty Homes did not install one, you can add a ladder. Adding ladders is the homeowner's responsibility.

WOOD TRIM/STRUCTURES

HOMEOWNER USE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Interior Wood Trim

Shrinking of wood trim occurs during the first two years of installation or longer, depending on temperature and humidity. All lumber is more vulnerable to shrinking during the winter, when the heater is used more frequently. Maintaining a moderate and stable temperature helps to minimize the effects of shrinking. Wood will shrink less lengthwise than across the grain. Wood shrinking can result in separation at joints of trim pieces. You can usually correct this with caulk and touch-up paint.

Shrinking may also cause a piece of trim to pull away from the wall. If this occurs, drive in another nail close to but not exactly in the existing nail hole. Fill the old nail hole with putty and touch up with paint as needed. If the base shoe (small trim between base molding and the floor) appears to be lifting from the floor, this is probably due to slight shrinking of the floor joists below. Again, you can correct this condition by removing the old nails and re-nailing. You may prefer to wait until after the first heating season to make any needed repairs at one time. See also Expansion and Contraction.

Exterior Wood Structures

Wood is a porous, natural product that requires on-going maintenance. Due to the moisture and temperature extremes found in Utah, natural building materials such as wood are subject to repeated expansion and contraction. This can result in warping or shrinking of wood materials. To minimize these effects, sealing wood is **required** and needs to be done as soon as possible. This can be done by painting, staining, or using a water repellant sealing product. Sealing may not prevent minor cracks, warping, or shrinkage, which is part of the normal aging process, but it can help minimize these effects and prolong the life of the wood. Because this is a normal part of the aging process, cracks, warping, and shrinkage are not typically covered by the builder warranty, especially in instances where the homeowner fails to take steps to protect the natural materials.

To ensure wood remains in good condition, regular maintenance of wood structures is needed:

- Check your porch posts and deck posts, beams, and joints because they are near ground level and covered by decking or other materials, so they are particularly prone to rotting.
- Check all support beams and surfaces each spring as the ground thaws. Melting snow and ice can damage wood.
- In addition to sealing the wood immediately after move-in, you will need to re-seal it regularly. Follow manufacturer guidelines on the sealant you use for how often to re-seal.

If any exterior wood is showing signs of distress, you should take certain precautions so the wood does not rot. We suggest using a stain for the best sealant. However, if the wood has already been painted, you should scrape off the old coat of paint, remove debris, and repaint. Be careful when painting wooden steps because the steps can be very slippery in cold weather. You should replace any wood that has rotted. This will prolong the life of the wood surrounding the rotted area.

LIBERTY HOMES LIMITED WARRANTY GUIDELINES

During your orientation, Liberty Homes will confirm that wood trim and structures are in an acceptable condition. Minor imperfections in wood materials will be visible and will require no action. Liberty Homes will correct noticeable construction damage such as chips and gouges listed on the Home Owner Orientation Inspection form, and those will be signed off as completed on the form. Subsequent damage is the responsibility of the homeowner.

Exterior Trim

If cracks in exterior trim components exceed 3/16-inch, Liberty Homes will schedule a site visit to investigate possible causes and if the cracks qualify for repair. If repair is done, caulk and touch-up paint will be applied. Any qualified repairs are one time only near the end of the first year. Paint or stain touch-up will not match due to dye lot variations and the effects of time, weather, and exposure on original paint or stain.

If there is a separation at joints that allows water to enter the home, Liberty Homes will schedule a site visit to investigate possible causes and if the separations qualify for repair.

Exterior Wood Structures

Liberty Homes will not repair or replace wood structures that have minor cracks, warping, or shrinkage. This is a natural occurrence in wood products. In rare instances where it is determined there was a defect in the wood used, Liberty Homes will take the necessary steps to correct the defect. However, if a homeowner failed to properly seal the wood, any Limited Warranty coverage is void.

Raised Grain

Because of the effects of weather on natural wood, you should expect raised grain to develop. This is normal and not a defect in the wood or paint. Warranty coverage excludes this condition.

CHECKLISTS/REFERENCE GUIDES

QUICK REFERENCE TO PERIODIC HOME MAINTENANCE

Below is a quick reference guide of the most common maintenance items and when to perform the maintenance.

Weekly

- **Carpeting:** Vacuum all carpeting at least weekly. Dust and sand particles in the carpet can cause fibers to break down prematurely under normal traffic.

Monthly

- **Heating & Air Conditioning:** Inspect all air return filters for dust. Clean or replace filters monthly during heating and cooling seasons.
- **GFCI Devices:** Check all GFCI outlets and devices for proper operation by pushing the test button on the device. An inexpensive outlet tester can also be used to check GFCI's.
- **Plumbing:** Check under kitchen and bathroom sinks for leaks in drain supply lines. Check all faucets for leaks or drips. Check around the water heater for leaks. Check toilets to make sure they shut off completely when the tank refills after flushing.
- **Faucets:** Check for proper flow of water. If the flow is reduced, remove and clean the aerator screens. Aerators may require more frequent cleaning during the first 60 days after move-in.
- **Range Hood:** Remove and clean the filters. Clean accumulated grease and dust from fan housing.
- **Landscape & Irrigation System:** Check sprinkler system for broken or misadjusted sprinkler heads. Adjust automatic timer for seasonal changes. Check lawn and plants for over watering or under watering.

Bi-Monthly

- **Wood Cabinetry:** Treat wood surfaces with high-quality wood furniture product. Avoid using products containing lemon oil. Also check cabinet door hinges, drawer glides, and pulls to assure screws are secure. Lubricate moving parts as needed with a small amount of silicone spray.
- **Exterior Doors:** Lubricate hinge pins with small amount of silicone spray. Avoid using oil-based products as they will attract dust. Inspect finish for cracks or peeling and refinish as needed. Touch up paint on painted exterior doors as needed.

Quarterly

- **Windows:** Check for proper operation. Lubricate rollers and locks with silicone spray as needed.
- **Interior Doors:** Lubricate hinge pins with small amount of silicone spray.
- **Garage Doors:** Lubricate hardware and rollers. Inspect mechanism for free travel. Test the auto reverse mechanism and sensors on the garage door openers. Do not attempt to make adjustments to overhead springs or openers yourself. Call a garage door professional if adjustments are necessary.

Semi-Annually

- **Tiled Surface:** Inspect tile for loose or missing grout and re-grout if necessary. Especially on exterior walls, it is normal for gaps to occur, such as between the wall and countertop backsplashes. Check caulking at tile backsplashes, tub surrounds and sinks. Re-caulk as necessary using a silicone-based tub and tile caulk.
- **Shower Doors and Tub Enclosures:** Inspect for proper fit. Adjust if necessary. Inspect caulking and re-caulk with silicone caulk if necessary.
- **Rain Gutters:** Inspect gutters and remove any debris that could cause blockages.
- **Heating and Air Conditioning:** Clean all vents and registers. Make sure outside units are clear of plants, grass, or anything that may block proper airflow.

Annually

- **Carpeting:** Deep clean as needed per manufacturer's recommendations.
- **Exterior Stucco, Wood Paint:** Inspect for cracked or peeling paint. Check stucco and wood surfaces for excessive cracking. Caulk or fill large cracks and touch-up or repaint if necessary.

MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

INTERIOR

Cabinets: Apply a wood protecting agent to cabinets and hardwood stair rails	Periodically				
Cabinets: Check alignment of cabinet doors and tighten when loose	Monthly				
Caulking: Check caulking and repair as needed	Monthly				
Drywall: Repair cracks and holes	As Needed				
Fireplaces: Have a safety and maintenance inspection for gas fireplaces	Fall (before use)				
Flooring - Carpet: Vacuum	Weekly				
Flooring - Carpet: Deep Clean	Annually				
Mold/Mildew: Check roof, windows, water pipes, and drainpipes	Monthly				
Paint: Repair discolored and chipped paint	As Needed				
Stain: Repair discolored and worn stain	As Needed				

EXTERIOR

Concrete: Check for heaving, cracking, and crumbling	Monthly				
Concrete: Make sure trees are not growing too close to the concrete	Annually				
Concrete: Check for pooling water	After heavy rains				
Doors/Hardware: Check doors for warping, alignments, and proper seals	Annually				
Doors/Hardware: Check caulking around doors and repair as needed	Monthly				
Foundation: Check for water leakage in basement and ensure outside grade directs water away from the foundation	Monthly				
Foundation: Check for cracking and crumbling	Monthly				
Garage Doors: Check garage door for leaks, warping, and bent parts	Annually				
Garage Doors: Tighten loose screws	Periodically				
Gutters: Check gutters for clogs, rust, and rot	Monthly				
Paint/Stain: Check painted and stained surfaces for peeling or blistering	Monthly				
Roof: Check roof shingles for cracks and damages	Spring				
Roof: Check metal flashing for rust and caulk as needed	Spring				
Roof: Trim trees that grow too close to home	Summer				
Roof: Check for mold	Monthly				
Walls: Check for animal infestation, holes, and piles of dead bugs	Monthly				

Walls: Trim plants growing near your home	Monthly				
Walls - Stucco: Check for small cracks, which can let water into your home	Monthly				
Walls – Brick/Stone: Check for crumbling, missing bricks/stones, and mortar deterioration	Monthly				
Walls - Siding: Fix loose panels	As Needed				
Windows: Check for window sweat, rotten wood, out of line hardware, and paint damage	Monthly				
Wood Structures: Check condition of pillars, deck structures, and any other exterior wood	Spring				
HOME SYSTEMS					
Cooling System: Check and replace filter	Monthly				
Cooling System: Check for leaks and clear debris from around compressor and make sure it is level	Spring (before use)				
Electrical: Test GFCI outlets	Monthly				
Water Heater: Drain water from tank heater to remove debris and check for and clean out any lint and dust	Every 6 months				
Water Softener: Refill water softener salt when level is low	Monthly				
Heat System: Check and replace filter	Monthly				
Plumbing: Check plumbing fixtures for damaged caulking and leaks	Monthly				
Plumbing: Check crawl spaces for water leaks	Annually				
SAFETY					
Alarm System: Test system	Monthly				
Pest Control: Clear debris from around your home	Periodically				
Pest Control - Termites: Check for dirt tunnels, holes, wood, and dead termites	Monthly				
Pest Control - Mice/Rats: Check for rodent droppings, mice tracks, and things that have been gnawed on	Monthly				
Smoke Detectors: Test smoke detectors and replace batteries	Monthly				
Ventilation - Carbon Monoxide: Check system	Monthly				

ANNUAL CHECKLIST

- Check the condition of glazing compound, caulking, and exterior paint. Replace paint as needed.
- Check for evidence of termites.
- Check interior paint and repaint/redecorate when necessary.
- Exchange glass and screens in the storm doors and windows.
- Inspect the roof for snow damage and repair if necessary.
- Feed and seed lawn, plant annuals, practice appropriate pruning of perennials, rake and compost leaves, mulch perennials that need winter protection.
- Remove hose connections and store away to avoid freezing.
- Keep driveways, walkways, and steps free of ice and snow to avoid damage to them or danger to others.
- Clean and repair heating system when necessary. If the unit has an air filter, replace every month during heating and cooling season.
- Oil motors of appliances as directed in appliance instruction manuals.
- Check cords and plugs of all electrical appliances for wear and tear. When necessary, have them repaired and replaced.
- Test smoke detectors for proper orientation. Be sure to clean units and filters (if any) and replace batteries and lightbulbs when necessary.
- Check alarm and the circuits on alarm system to ensure proper use. Inspect sensors and check primary and backup batteries once a month.
- Inspect all doors and windows for proper operation and a tight fit. Clean all window tracks, clean and adjust door thresholds, and check the weather-stripping on windows and doors. Reduction of your utility bill will happen as you prevent unwanted outside air from leaking into your home.
- Check attic insulation to ensure entire ceiling area is covered.
- Make careful safety inspections of your home to seek out potentially dangerous areas to prevent injuries.
- Make periodic checks of storage areas, backs of closets, basement corners, etc., to ensure no oily rags, un-vented gas cans, painting supplies, or flammable cleaning materials have been forgotten as these items pose potential fire hazards. Many local fire departments will do free home safety inspections.
- Check stairs, steps, and ladders for broken or hazardous areas that could cause an accident. Check handrails and railings for sturdiness and reliability.
- Test all the lights located in infrequently used spaces to be sure to work when they are needed.
- Check all connections to your electrical system to correct any possible hazards. Replace frayed electrical cords and do not overload extension cords.
- Check GFCI outlets monthly to make sure they are working properly.