



# Sanctuary Plus Risk Report

Sometimes it seems that we have only two seasons in Canada; winter and construction. As summer approaches many churches are now faced with the cost of maintenance: hard work, blisters and in some cases lots of hours of fun with church volunteers. Below are some key areas of maintenance for churches.

**Parking Lots & Sidewalks:** Winter frost and snow clearing takes its toll on pavement causing uneven walking surfaces. A quick inspection with a paving contractor can point out areas that need repair or replacing. Early maintenance will stop future damage and accumulation of black ice in the coming fall-winter months.

**Sump Pump Battery Back-Up:** With spring/summer wind and rainstorms, it is a good idea to get powered back-up systems in place. For more information check out the internet at [www.sump-pump-info.com](http://www.sump-pump-info.com).

**Roof Condition:** Wind and rain are two common claim concerns. Asphalt shingles can be checked with a local contractor and recommendations made to repair or replace sections of the roof. Checking your eaves-troughs for accumulation of asphalt granular is a good indication of degradation of your roof. Also visual curling, and broken edges show that there is going to be a future problem.

**Sewer Back-Up Check Valves:** Interior water damage from exterior sewer back up damage creates unlivable conditions in your church. A small fix now can stop a multitude of problems in your future. For more information visit [www.backwatervalve.ca](http://www.backwatervalve.ca).

**Electrical Outlets:** Over used electrical outlets and extension cords should be replaced by new receptacle installation. Extension cords are risks for trip and fall hazards as well as electrical outlet overuse.

**Fire Extinguisher & Sprinkler System Inspection:** Check your systems each and every year. If the tags are over one year old, have them inspected and updated. These fire-protection systems are there to assist the church in the event of a fire, and they need to be in good working order. Your local fire department would be pleased to work with you on this and also give some basic training in the proper use of extinguishers.

**Kitchen:** Stove exhaust hoods, ovens, and stove burners need cleaning from grease and accumulated dust. A good degreasing agent and a little bit of volunteer elbow-grease will keep the kitchen systems in good working order. It's also recommended to pull out the stove and fridge to clear behind them of accumulated dust.

**Abuse Protocol Review:** With VBS, church day-camps and more outside youth activities, a review of your abuse prevention protocol should be done and your leaders screened. If you do not have a protocol or feel yours needs upgrading please contact us for free information and assistance.

**Vandalism:** Summer is vandalism and theft season and one of the areas of concern is HVAC units for damage or theft of copper coils. Rooftop and open ground units are susceptible to events such as these and recommended protection can be found at [www.copperguard.net](http://www.copperguard.net).