

Fall Home Maintenance Checklist

Getting a head start on home maintenance in the fall can make your winter to-do list less daunting!

EXTERIOR

- Rake leaves and aerate the lawn.
- After last leaf falls, clear out gutters and downspouts, flush with water, inspect joints and tighten brackets. Point downspouts away from foundation. Inspect roofing for missing, loose, or damaged shingles and leaks.
- Check the foundation for cracks; caulk around the areas where masonry meets siding, where pipes/wires enter the house and around windows and door frames.
- Drain and winterize exterior plumbing. Drain/store hoses and drain in-ground sprinkler systems.
- Repair or replace siding.
- Check walkways and driveways for cracked or uneven cement that could pose fall hazards during winter snowfalls.
- Check exterior lights and replace bulbs.
- Examine pool cover for damage and replace if necessary.
- Weather-strip garage door, make a tight seal between the garage door and ground.
- Seal gaps where rodents and pests could enter your home.
- Install storm windows/doors and remove screens. Clean and repair screens, spray with a protective coating and store in a dry area.

INTERIOR

- Check fireplace for damage or hazards, and clean fireplace flues. Have fireplace professionally inspected.
- Replace the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Install a smoke detector on every floor of your home, including the basement.
- Vacuum lint from dryer vent.
- Check water heater for leaks.
- Make sure you are not storing flammable liquids, such as paint supplies near heating units or vents.
- Use caution with space heaters.
- Make sure your fire extinguisher is in working order.
- Have a licensed heating contractor check heating system, including ducts and furnaces.
- Vacuum internal parts of air conditioners. Remove units from windows or wrap outside boxes with tarp or plastic air conditioner cover.
- Make sure your attic is well-ventilated and the insulation is dry and mold-free. Check for critters.
- Clean your humidifiers and vacuum air filters.
- Check for proper sealing and insulation on all windows and doors and apply weather stripping and caulk where needed.