

Fall Home Maintenance Checklist



Exterior maintenance

- Check the foundation for cracks; caulk around the areas where masonry meets siding, where pipes or wires enter the house, and around the windows and door frames.
- Install storm windows and doors and remove screens. Clean and repair screens, spray with a protective coating and store in a dry area.
- Inspect exterior walls for any peeling or blistering paint on the house or outbuildings.
- Have a licensed, certified roofing professional check the condition of your roof.
- After the last leaf falls, clear out the gutters and downspouts, flush them with water, inspect joints and tighten brackets. Point downspouts away from the foundation.
- Examine your pool cover for damage and replace if necessary.
- Weather-strip your garage door, making a tight seal between your garage door and the ground.
- Inspect your driveway for cracks. Clean out and repair any damage with driveway filler, then coat with a commercial sealer.



Interior maintenance

- Check for proper sealing and insulation on all windows and doors, and apply weather stripping and caulk where it's needed.
- Have a licensed heating contractor check your heating system, including ducts and furnaces.
- Examine your wood stove or fireplace insert's door gasket for a tight seal. Clean and inspect the glass door for cracks and have a licensed chimney sweep clean the chimney.
- Change the direction of your ceiling fan to create an upward draft to redistribute warm air from the ceiling.
- Check that the attic is insulated, ventilated and critter-free.
- Test and change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and keep extra household batteries on hand.
- Vacuum internal parts of air conditioners. Remove units from windows or wrap outside boxes with an approved tarp or plastic air conditioner cover.
- Clean your humidifiers regularly during the heating season to avoid bacteria and spore growth.



Yard and garden

- Clean and store summer garden tools.
- Rake the lawn, reseed patchy areas and plant spring flowering bulbs. If needed, deer-proof your yard by covering plants with netting and chicken wire.
- Trim any tree limbs that interfere with power lines or might break under the weight of snow and ice.
- Drain the fuel from all gas-operated yard equipment such as lawn mowers, leaf blowers and chain saws.
- Store your snow-clearing gear—shovels, roof rakes and snow blowers—so that they're accessible when you need them.
- Drain garden hoses and store them inside. Also, shut off outdoor water valves, irrigation and sprinkler systems.
- Inspect and fill bird feeders. Remember that once you start feeding birds, you should continue to do so throughout winter.
- Fertilize the lawn with a high phosphorous mix to ensure healthy grass in the spring.



Porch and deck

- Check the supports, stairs and railings on porches and decks. Make sure the handrails can support someone slipping on snow or ice.
- Clean outside furniture and barbecues, check for any needed repairs, then cover and store in a protected area.
- Empty all the soil from pots and planters.