

Fall Home Maintenance Checklist

A fall home maintenance checklist of autumn tasks that prepare your home for winter.

Heating & HVAC

- ☐ Schedule a professional furnace or heat-pump tune-up
- ☐ Replace the furnace filter and stock spares for the season
 - Check 1-inch filters monthly through heating season
- ☐ Test the heating system on a cool day before you need it
- ☐ Bleed radiators or check boiler pressure on hydronic systems
- ☐ Reverse ceiling fans to clockwise to circulate warm air down
- ☐ Confirm the thermostat works and replace its batteries

Gutters, Roof & Exterior

- ☐ Clean gutters and downspouts after most leaves have fallen
- ☐ Inspect the roof from the ground for loose or missing shingles
- ☐ Check flashing and seals around chimneys, vents and skylights
- ☐ Confirm downspouts direct water at least three feet from the foundation
- ☐ Rake leaves away from the foundation and clear window wells
- ☐ Trim dead branches that could fall under snow or ice load

Plumbing & Water

- ☐ Drain and shut off outdoor faucets and sprinkler systems
- ☐ Disconnect, drain and store garden hoses
- ☐ Insulate exposed pipes in unheated areas like the garage and crawl space
- ☐ Test the sump pump before winter storms and snowmelt
- ☐ Locate the main water shut-off in case a pipe bursts

Seal & Weatherproof

- ☐ Apply weatherstripping to doors and seal drafty windows
- ☐ Caulk gaps and cracks where pipes and wires enter the house
- ☐ Check attic insulation depth and add more if it's thin
- ☐ Install draft stoppers under exterior doors
- ☐ Inspect and reverse or remove window AC units

Fireplace & Safety

- ☐ Hire a certified chimney sweep before lighting the first fire
- ☐ Test smoke and carbon-monoxide alarms and replace old batteries
 - CO risk rises in fall and winter with fuel-burning heat
- ☐ Check the fireplace damper opens and closes fully
- ☐ Inspect and recharge the kitchen fire extinguisher
- ☐ Stock firewood in a dry, covered spot away from the house

Yard & Outdoor Prep

- ☐ Aerate, fertilize and overseed the lawn before frost
- ☐ Clean and store outdoor furniture, grills and tools

- ☐ Service and store the lawn mower; ready the snow blower
- ☐ Stock up on ice melt and check that snow shovels are usable
- ☐ Empty and store pots; protect tender plants from frost