Fall Home Maintenance Checklist

Get Your Home Ready for Fall

15 simple ways to get your home ready for winter, inside and out.

YARD & EXTERIOR

CARE FOR TREES & GARDENS
Prune risky limbs, clear dead plants, prepare soil & store outdoor furniture.

MANAGE FALLEN LEAVES
Rake leaves off lawns, collect or mulch them appropriately.

CHECK GUTTERS & DOWNSPOUTS
Remove debris after leaves fall, hire a professional if ladder work is unsafe.

INSPECT EXTERIOR SURFACES
Check roof, siding and foundation, schedule needed repairs.

SEAL GAPS AGAINST PESTS
Close openings around the home and check that the chimney has a cap.

CHECK WALKWAYS & RAILINGS
Repair steps, sidewalks, driveways, and loose handrails before ice arrives.

WINTERIZE OUTDOOR FAUCETS
Disconnect and drain hoses, shut off exterior water where applicable, cover faucets.

ALL CHECKED OFF?
Make a warm drink, grab a blanket and enjoy a cozy movie night.

WINTER READINESS

PREPARE SNOW SUPPLIES
Inspect shovels, scrapers, and snowblower, stock ice melt and emergency kits.

WEATHERSTRIP DOORS & WINDOWS
Seal drafts, add door sweeps and check locks and hinges.

TEST SMOKE & CO ALARMS
Replace batteries or expired units as needed. Inspect fire extinguishers.

SWITCH CEILING FANS FOR WINTER
If supported, set fans to run clockwise at low speed.

STORE WINDOW AC UNITS
Remove and store units, or insulate them if they must stay installed.

INSPECT THE DRYER VENT
Remove lint and check the exterior vent, arrange professional cleaning if needed.

CHECK HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY
Use the DIY energy-audit guidance at energy.gov

SERVICE HEATING & CHIMNEY
Schedule heating system maintenance & chimney inspection/cleaning as needed.

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