

Fall Home Maintenance Checklist

Roof:

- Check roof and around vents, skylights and chimneys for leaks. Repair as necessary.
- Repair roof shingles

Gutters:

- Clean gutters and drain pipes so leaves won't clog them and be sure they drain away from the house.

Windows and Doors:

- Seal drafty doors and windows. If you added up all of the small cracks where heating and cooling escapes from a home, it would be the same as having a window open. Replace seals as needed.

Storm Windows and Screens:

- Take down screens (if removable type) and replace with storm windows.
- Check and patch all door and window screens.

Siding and Paint:

- Look for cracks and holes in house siding or paint.
- Replace caulk if necessary. A carpet knife can work well for cutting away old caulking from house siding. Slice down alongside it from both directions with the hook-like blade, then use the knife to lift out the old caulk bead intact.

Exterior:

- Cut brush back from around your home.
- Remove fallen leaves from concrete and wood surfaces to prevent staining.
- Clean and store outdoor furniture.
- Clean and store grill (unless you use it year-round).
- Have pool drained and professionally serviced.
- Drain outside faucets.
- Cover outside spigots with foam covers or wrap with newspaper.
- Drain and store garden hoses.

Safety Equipment:

- Ensure that all smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers are in good working order.
- Replace batteries in appropriate devices as needed, or at least twice each year.

Attic:

- Close vents to conserve heat.

Basement:

- Check basement walls and floor for dampness.
- Be sure to clean dehumidifier regularly, if you have one.

Fireplace:

- Clean fireplace of ashes.
- Check chimney for loose or missing mortar.
- Have chimney professionally cleaned.
- Make sure damper closes tightly.

Filters:

- Clean or replace filters once a month, or as needed.
- Check and clean dryer vent, air conditioner, stove hood and room fans.
- Keep heating and cooling vents clean and free from furniture and draperies.

Faucets:

- Check for leaky faucets in kitchen and bathroom(s).
- Replace washers as necessary.

Hot Water Heater:

- Drain hot water heater.
- Remove sediment from the bottom of the tank.

Air Conditioner:

- Remove window air-conditioners, or put weatherproof covers on them.

Heating System:

- Have heating system serviced.
- Change filters.
- Bleed air from radiators, if they do not have automatic air valves.

Refrigerator:

- Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight. Test them by closing the door over a dollar bill. If you can pull the bill out easily, the latch may need to be adjusted or the seal may need to be replaced.
- If you have a coil-back refrigerator, vacuum the coils at least twice each year. your refrigerator will run more efficiently with clean coils.
- Stock up! A full refrigerator uses less energy than an empty one.