



Fall Home Maintenance Checklist

As leaves start to fall and temperatures drop, now's the time to give your home a little extra care. Here's a complete fall checklist — including some often-overlooked tasks that can help prevent damage and keep your home running efficiently all season long.

Outdoor Prep

- **Clean gutters and downspouts:** Remove leaves and debris so water can flow freely and prevent ice dams later.
- **Inspect your roof:** Look for missing or damaged shingles and check flashing around chimneys and vents.
- **Trim trees and shrubs:** Cut back branches that hang near your home or power lines to prevent storm damage.
- **Drain and store garden hoses:** Shut off outdoor water valves and drain spigots to avoid frozen pipes.
- **Check walkways and driveways:** Repair cracks now before freezing temps cause them to expand.
- **Seal gaps and openings:** Inspect the foundation, siding, and windows for entry points that let in cold air (or critters!).

Indoor Safety

- **Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors:** Replace batteries and confirm they're working properly.
- **Inspect your fireplace and chimney:** Have them professionally cleaned before the first fire of the season.
- **Clean out your dryer vent:** Lint buildup is one of the most common causes of house fires — and an easy one to prevent.

- **Schedule a furnace tune-up:** Regular maintenance improves efficiency and prevents mid-winter breakdowns.
- **Replace air filters:** Clean filters keep your HVAC system running smoothly and your air cleaner.
- **Check space heaters:** Ensure cords are in good condition and keep them at least 3 feet away from anything flammable.

Plumbing & Utilities

- **Drain your water heater:** Flushing it helps remove sediment buildup that reduces efficiency and shortens its lifespan.
- **Insulate exposed pipes:** Especially those in unheated areas like basements, garages, or crawl spaces.
- **Check sump pump operation:** Pour water into the pit to make sure it cycles properly before the wet winter months.

Out-of-the-Box Essentials

- **Reverse ceiling fans:** Switch blades to spin clockwise to push warm air down during colder months.
- **Inspect attic insulation:** Look for gaps, wet spots, or signs of pests before winter sets in.
- **Clean refrigerator coils:** Helps your fridge run efficiently and saves energy.
- **Test GFCI outlets:** Press the “test” and “reset” buttons to ensure safety around moisture-prone areas.
- **Check for drafts with a candle or incense stick:** A simple way to spot leaky windows or doors that need weatherstripping.