



FALL HOME MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

The days are getting shorter, which means fall is here!
Use this checklist to help prepare your home – inside and out – for the fall and winter days ahead.

OUTSIDE

- Clean your gutters and downspouts and remove accumulated debris to prevent water backup or damage.
- Check your gutters for any damage, and confirm they are securely attached to your home.
- Check the caulking around doors and windows looking for signs of deterioration, and make any necessary repairs.
- Trim trees and shrubs away from your house, fences, and other structures.
- Insulate outdoor water pipes in areas exposed to freezing temperatures. Remove any outdoor hose lines, and prep your outside spigots for winter.
- Prep your lawn mower for storage. Check the oil and gas, and store in a locked and ventilated area.
- Check your snow blower for loose wires, leaks and other damage from summer storage. Ensure the oil and gas are stored in a locked and ventilated area for use in the upcoming months.
- Have a professional inspect and clean out your chimney.
- Check your chimney cap and spark arrestor for damage and make necessary repairs to keep debris, leaves, branches and animals out during the winter.

INSIDE

- Have your heating system cleaned and inspected by a qualified technician, and replace your furnace filter in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Carefully inspect your smoke alarms. Make sure you have one on each floor of your home. Test the smoke alarms each month and change the batteries twice per year: once during Spring Daylight Savings Time, and again for Fall Daylight Savings Time.
- Make sure your fire extinguishers are not expired and are ready for use.
- Check electrical outlets for loose-fitting plugs or receptacles and make sure they are not overloaded.
- Inspect and clean your clothes dryer exhaust duct and the area under your dryer. Remove all lint, dust and leftover material.
- If you have a fireplace, pellet stove or wood burner, make sure the area around the hearth is clear of debris, decorations and any other combustible materials.
- Check indoor water pipes that are located in unheated or poorly insulated areas. Be sure to check your basement, attic, crawl space, garage, and cabinets, and apply insulation to avoid frozen pipes during the winter.