

Fall Home Maintenance Checklist

Work through it from September to the first hard freeze. Every box you check now is a repair you won't be making in January.

EXTERIOR

- ☐ Seal gaps at pipes, vents, cables
- ☐ Replace worn door sweeps
- ☐ Weatherstrip drafty doors
- ☐ Caulk windows and doors – above 40°F
- ☐ Stain the deck, touch up paint – dry, 50–85°F
- ☐ Store patio furniture and cushions

ROOF & GUTTERS

- ☐ Scan the roof with binoculars
- ☐ Clean gutters after leaves drop
- ☐ Check downspouts run free
- ☐ Extend downspouts 4+ ft from house
- ☐ Trim branches over the roof
- ☐ Check the attic for daylight or stains

HEATING

- ☐ Fresh furnace filter
- ☐ Test-run the furnace – on a mild evening
- ☐ Book the furnace tune-up
- ☐ Chimney inspection before first fire
- ☐ Vacuum registers; clear furniture
- ☐ Ceiling fans to clockwise, low

PLUMBING & FREEZE PREP

- ☐ Disconnect and drain hoses
- ☐ Shut off and drain outdoor faucets
- ☐ Irrigation blowout – before hard freeze
- ☐ Insulate pipes in unheated spaces
- ☐ Flush sediment from the water heater
- ☐ Test the sump pump – bucket of water

SAFETY

- ☐ Test smoke and CO alarms – monthly
- ☐ Check alarm dates – smoke: 10 years
- ☐ Check the fire extinguisher gauge
- ☐ Clean the dryer vent duct – yearly
- ☐ Practice the fire escape plan
- ☐ Inspect holiday lights and cords

YARD

- ☐ Aerate and overseed – cool-season lawns
- ☐ Fall fertilizer feeding
- ☐ Mulch-mow or rake the leaves
- ☐ Run the mower dry or stabilize fuel
- ☐ Plant spring bulbs
- ☐ Clean and store garden tools

FALL DATES TO KNOW

Average first frost _____ Furnace tune-up _____ Irrigation blowout _____