

Fall Home Maintenance Checklist

Get the house ready before cold weather arrives. Most of this is a weekend of work.

Outside

- ☐ Clean gutters and downspouts after most leaves have fallen
- ☐ Make sure downspouts carry water at least 4 feet from the foundation
- ☐ Disconnect hoses and shut off or drain outdoor faucets
- ☐ Blow out the irrigation system before the first hard freeze
- ☐ Inspect the roof for missing or lifted shingles and flashing gaps
- ☐ Seal gaps around windows, doors, and siding penetrations
- ☐ Trim branches away from the roof and power lines

Heating

- ☐ Replace the furnace filter
- ☐ Schedule a furnace or heat pump tune-up
- ☐ Test the thermostat in heat mode before you need it
- ☐ Have the chimney swept and inspected if you burn wood
- ☐ Bleed radiators or check the boiler pressure if you have one

Inside

- ☐ Test smoke and CO alarms
- ☐ Flush the water heater
- ☐ Check weatherstripping and door sweeps for drafts
- ☐ Reverse ceiling fans to clockwise to push warm air down

Yard and garage

- ☐ Winterize the lawn mower and other gas equipment
- ☐ Drain fuel or add stabilizer to stored equipment
- ☐ Store patio furniture and cover the grill
- ☐ Get snow tools and ice melt ready