



FALL CHECKLIST FOR HOMEOWNERS:

Heating, Ventilation and Insulation:

- Change furnace filters.
- Have heating system inspected and have ducts cleaned if necessary.
- Drain sediment from hot water heaters.
- Have chimneys and flues inspected and cleaned if necessary.
- Ensure all vents and openings around exterior of home are covered to prevent insects, birds and rodents from getting inside to nest in a warm place.

Rainwater and Storm Protection:

- Check for missing, damaged or warped shingles and replace as necessary.
- Check gutters and downspouts. Clear of debris if necessary and re-secure if loose or sagging. The weight of snow and ice can pull gutters off the house.
- Make sure all stairwell drains are clear of debris.
- Test/clean your sump pump (consider getting a battery backup sump pump if you don't have one already).
- Check your basement for cracks or leaks and repair as necessary.

Window and doors:

- Wash interior and exterior of windows.
- Remove any window AC units or cover them with insulated liners to prevent drafts.
- Check all the weather-stripping around doorframes for leaks to prevent heat loss. Replace weather-stripping, if necessary.
- Check for drafts around windows. Caulk inside and out, where necessary, to keep heat from escaping.
- Inspect windows for cracks, broken glass or gaps and repair or replace, if needed.
- Replace or repair any broken window locks or latches.

Lawn, Garden and Deck:

- Aerate the lawn, reseed and apply a winterizing fertilizer to promote deep-root growth come spring.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs such as daffodils, hyacinths and tulips.
- Ensure rain drains away from the house to avoid foundation problems. The dirt grade around the exterior of your home should slope away from the house. Add extra dirt to low areas, as necessary.
- Trim overgrown branches back from the house and electrical wires to prevent iced-over or wind-swept branches from causing property damage.
- Clean and dry patio furniture. Cover with a heavy tarp or store inside a shed or garage to protect it from the elements.
- Bring all seasonal tools inside and spray them with a coating of lightweight oil to prevent rust.
- Disconnect hoses, drain and store.

Safety:

- Check condition of all exterior lighting and motion detectors. Good illumination will help improve security and will minimize the chance of accidents on icy walkways at night.
- Check that smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order.

General Cleaning and Home Organization:

- Turn mattresses front-to-back and end-to-end to equalize wear.
- Store summer clothing and bedding, and get out winter clothing and bedding.
- Schedule professional carpet cleaning.
- Prepare the kitchen for holiday cooking. Clean, organize and restock kitchen cabinets, paying particular attention to baking supplies and spices.

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