

Home Maintenance

Your Fall To-Do List

Regular maintenance on your home gives you peace of mind and keeps your resale value strong. Putting some energy into seasonal tasks now will help you prevent costly repairs later and keep your home looking and running its best year-round. Here are items to include on your fall to-do list:



Clean the chimney.

Whether you have a wood-burning fireplace or gas logs, hire a professional to inspect and clean your chimney annually.

Service the HVAC system.

Call a professional to ensure all components are running efficiently. Replace the air filter and test your thermostat too.

Deep-clean indoors.

Polish wood floors, scrub cabinets, vacuum hard-to-reach spaces, wipe down the fridge interior, and dust ceiling fans. A thorough clean now makes hosting easier during the busy entertaining season ahead.

Clear the gutters.

Remove leaves and debris, and ensure downspouts drain properly. This helps prevent wood rot, keeps pests away and prolongs the life of your gutters.

Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Do this each spring and fall — test them and replace batteries as needed.

Inspect and clean the dryer vent.

Have your dryer vent checked at least once a year. Excessive lint buildup poses a serious fire risk.

Spruce up the yard.

Rake leaves, prune bushes and trim trees that are too close to power lines or the roof. This promotes healthy growth and protects your property from falling branches.

Inspect windows and doors.

Check for drafts and re-caulk or add weatherstripping where needed.

Reseed or fertilize the grass.

Lawn experts recommend fertilizing in both fall and spring. Cooler fall temperatures are ideal for helping cool-season grasses take root.