

Fall Maintenance Checklist

Different regions have different kinds of falls. In some places, it's cool and rainy, and in others, it's sunny and dry. Often, fall is a time for gathering in the harvest and preparing for festive holidays indoors. No matter what kind of fall you have, these steps can help during the transition from summer to winter.

Inside the Home

- Repair vinyl and wood floors
- Examine and repair indoor staircases
- Test the furnace to make sure it works properly
- Maintain locks, lubricating as necessary
- Repair and replace caulking in floors and baseboards and around windows and doors
- Remove and replace crumbling caulk around the bathtub, sink, or toilet
- Make sure there is no moisture under the bathtub or shower stall
- Test for radon gas
- Lubricate squeaking doors
- Evaluate insulation
- Have ventilation ducts cleaned, inspected, and repaired
- Check for mice and rats—put out traps in areas pests might sneak into the home
- Patch and paint holes and cracks in walls and ceilings, watch for indications of water damage
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and replace batteries if needed
- Repair indoor woodwork
- Check the stove exhaust fan and remove dust and grease build-up
- Install plastic sheets on windows that require extra wind protection
- Add weather stripping around doors

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Outside the Home

- With shorter days and the approach of winter, take some time to check the exterior of your home.
- Check the roof for summer wear and tear
- Clean gutters and downspouts
- Drain the evaporative cooler
- Inspect and service the heating unit
- Repair cracks in siding and shingles
- Repair any damaged masonry
- Insulate water pipes that are exposed to extreme cold
- Cover outdoor water faucets
- Remove screens, clean them, and store away for the winter
- Seal any concrete walkways
- Check exterior ventilation flaps, making sure they are intact and functional

In The Yard

- The freezing and thawing of the impending winter can cause damage to outdoor furniture and your
- swimming pool.
- Cover and protect your patio furniture, BBQ, and air conditioner
- Drain the pool
- Trim tree limbs that could break under the weight of snow and ice
- Rake up and dispose of leaves



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In The Garden

- Fill birdfeeders in time for migrating species (keep it stocked!)
- Add a protective layer of mulch to your perennials, shrubs, and trees
- Clean flower beds of spent summer blossoms and plants
- Turn the compost
- Remove the garden hose and place inside for the winter

In The Garage

- Protect and cover lawn equipment and garden tools
- Drain lawnmower of gasoline and oil
- Check for leaks in the doors and repair
- Examine and repair the weather stripping around the doors



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