

# FALL MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Home fall maintenance is essential to prepare for harsher weather and prevent winter issues. Here's a 10-point checklist to use on your home this fall:

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- Clean Gutters and Downspouts:** Remove leaves, debris, and other obstructions from your gutters and downspouts to ensure proper drainage. This helps prevent water damage to your roof and foundation.
  - Inspect and Clean Chimney:** If you have a fireplace or wood-burning stove, have your chimney inspected and cleaned by a professional to remove creosote buildup and ensure safe operation.
  - Check Roof and Attic:** Inspect your roof for damaged or missing shingles and repair them as needed. Also, check the attic for leaks, proper insulation, and adequate ventilation.
  - Check Insulation:** Inspect insulation in your walls and attic. Add or replace insulation as needed to improve energy efficiency and keep your home warm.
  - Seal Gaps and Cracks:** Caulk gaps and cracks around windows, doors, and foundation to prevent drafts and heat loss. This also helps keep pests out.
  - Test Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Replace batteries and test smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they're in working order.
  - Service Heating System:** Schedule a professional inspection and servicing of your heating system, including furnaces, boilers, and heat pumps, to ensure efficient and safe operation.
  - Trim Trees and Shrubs:** Trim overhanging branches and remove dead or damaged trees or shrubs that could pose a hazard during winter storms.
  - Winterize Outdoor Faucets and Sprinklers:** Drain and disconnect garden hoses, and shut off outdoor water sources. Consider insulating outdoor faucets and pipes to prevent freezing.
  - Prepare for Snow Removal:** Ensure you have the necessary snow removal equipment, such as shovels, snow blowers, and ice melt, ready for when winter weather arrives.
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