

# Fall Checklist



## Interior Maintenance

- ☐ Check for drafts. Feel for drafts around edges of windows and doors. Light a candle to test. If the flame flickers, there's most likely a draft.
- ☐ Change air filters. To maximize energy savings and safety, have your furnace inspected and filters changed.
- ☐ Winterize air conditioning. If your home has central air conditioning, it's good practice to cover your outdoor unit for winter.
- ☐ Buy a programmable thermostat and be smart about temperature settings.
- ☐ Check dryer vents for tears. Vacuum or brush out lint in the dryer hose and around the lint screen.
- ☐ Test home safety devices. Replace the batteries in all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide devices.
- ☐ Clean humidifiers. Replace old filters and clean inside compartment. Vinegar is inexpensive and works well.

## Exterior Maintenance

- ☐ Do a roof check. Perform a visual inspection of the roof from the ground. Look for missing, damaged, or loose shingles.
- ☐ Check the chimney and fireplace. If you have a wood fireplace and use it often, have your chimney cleaned and inspected by a professional.
- ☐ Inspect siding. Check home exterior for cracks or holes.
- ☐ Clean the gutters. Hire a service to clear your gutters or do it yourself. Remove leaves, nests, and debris from gutters and check for leaks.
- ☐ Check water drainage. Rainwater downspouts need to be clear of obstructions and direct water away from foundations, walkways, and driveways.
- ☐ Check for cracks. Cracks in concrete or asphalt can expand and cause more damage in winter months, not to mention trip hazards.
- ☐ Turn off faucets and store hoses. Drain garden hoses and disconnect from the outside spigots.
- ☐ Service sprinklers and irrigation system.
- ☐ Inspect trees. Check for damaged limbs that may break or that are too close to power lines or the roof.
- ☐ Trim landscaping. Cut back bushes, shrubs, and flowers as recommended for Michigan climates.
- ☐ Bring in flowerpots. If you keep plants or flowers in pots year-round, bring them inside. If you replace plants every year, empty, clean and dry pots and put away for next spring.
- ☐ Leaf removal. Rake and remove leaves from the yard. Put into a compost pile if you have one.
- ☐ Fertilize lawn. Applying fall lawn fertilizer will help prevent winter damage and spring weeds.
- ☐ Put away seasonal furniture.
- ☐ Close the pool.

## In the Garage/Shed

- ☐ Organize the shed. Move summer items to the back and winter items up front for better access. Remove any liquids that will freeze.
- ☐ Service summer power equipment. Empty fuel and clean lawnmower and trimmer. Have lawnmower blades sharpened and oil changed.
- ☐ Store summer vehicles. If you have a motorcycle, summer car, ATV or other seasonal vehicle, arrange to have it serviced as well.
- ☐ Get winter equipment ready. Service snow blower and make sure it is ready to go.
- ☐ Test the generator. If you have an emergency generator for power outages, give it a test, and make sure it's in good working order.
- ☐ Buy extra gasoline. Purchase extra gas to have on hand for use in your snow blower or generator, so you're prepared for emergencies. Make sure you store gasoline in tanks away from fire sources and out of children's reach.
- ☐ Clean the garage. Since you're in the garage prepping for fall, you might as well purge, organize and clean it while you're there!



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