

# Fall/Winter Home Maintenance Checklist

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By maintaining your home, you can help prevent costly damage and insurance claims that may eventually lead to higher premiums. Use this checklist to prepare your home for cooler weather.

### Doors and windows

- Apply caulking and weather stripping around doors and windows
- Inspect storm doors and windows, checking for broken glass

### Roof and gutters

- Clean out gutters and downspouts and repair any leaking seams
- Inspect and repair roof shingles and flashing to prevent water damage

### Walls and foundation

- Seal cracks and leaks in foundation and walls
- Check attic or basement insulation for signs of moisture

### Landscaping

- Trim back tree branches and brush
- Store firewood away from home to prevent infestations by termites and other insects

### Heating and cooling

- Clean condenser coils and filters for window air conditioners and remove or cover units
- Have heating system inspected and cleaned
- Consider installing programmable thermostat to help reduce heating costs
- Clean or change furnace filters monthly
- Move flammable materials away from furnace, hot water heater, and other heat sources
- Have chimney inspected and cleaned, and make sure damper operates properly

### Plumbing

- Test pressure valve on hot water heater and look for leaks
- Insulate pipes in unheated spaces such as basements, garages, and attics
- Disconnect garden hoses and shut off and drain exterior plumbing
- Make sure family members know how to shut off main water supply in an emergency

### Appliances

- Check water hoses on washer, icemaker, and dishwasher for leaks
- Clean lint from the clothes dryer exhaust duct and surrounding area

**Safety devices**

- Install a carbon monoxide detector or test one you already own
- Test smoke detectors and fire extinguishers

**Porches and decks**

- Make sure railings are secure and that steps are in good repair
- Clean, cover, and store outdoor furniture

**Pool**

- Have pool professionally serviced and winterized
  - Store chemicals properly, following manufacturer's instructions
  - Install a pool safety cover to protect children and pets
  - Make sure pool fence is in good repair and securely locked
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