
fall home maintenance checklist

From cleaning behind your fridge to inspecting your furnace, here's how to get your home in seasonal shape. For more information, read the [full article](#).

clean behind the fridge

Pull the refrigerator away from the wall to vacuum the condenser coils. Use a long, narrow brush to clean dust off bottom-mounted coils.

inspect your furnace

Save time and buy a winter's supply of furnace filters now. To get maximum energy savings, change filters monthly. Schedule an annual checkup for your furnace now.

clean the gutters

Clean your gutters twice a year. It's one of the most important things you can do to protect your home.

inspect your roof

Look for signs of deterioration such as loose shingles, rotting wood, or cracks. Carefully trim heavy branches that are hanging over your roof.

check all windows and doors

Remove summer screens and install storm windows and doors. Inspect and repair any loose or damaged windows or doorframes. Install weather-stripping or caulk around windows and doors to reduce drafts and save money and energy.

inspect the laundry room

Check your dryer's exhaust tube and vent for built-up lint, debris, and even bird nests! Make sure the exterior vent is closed tightly when not in use.

secure the cracks

Before critters start seeking shelter from the cold, inspect the perimeter of your house for cracks or holes where they could enter and seal them well.

detector check

Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they're working properly (you should do this once a month), and change the batteries in all of them at least twice a year.

outdoor prep

Cover your air conditioning unit

Repair & seal driveway

Plant flowering spring bulbs

Clean & store summer garden tools

Drain hoses & shut off outdoor water valves

Clean & apply sealer to decks

Cover & store outdoor furniture & grills

Empty dirt from flowerpots & garden containers