



# Fall Home Maintenance Tips

Autumn is here so it's time to prepare your home and yard as temperatures drop. There are several steps you can take inside and outside your home to better protect it. Here are a few items you may add

## Lawn and Garden Tips

- ◆ Rake leaves and use them in compost piles or cover cold-sensitive perennials
- ◆ Winterize sprinklers. Turn off automated sprinkler systems, drain valves, and blow out the lines with compressed air.
- ◆ Disconnect, drain and roll up garden hoses.
- ◆ Through fall and winter - water grass, trees and shrubs only during prolonged dry periods when temperature is above 40 degrees and there is no snow on the ground.
- ◆ Aerate and fertilize your lawn.

## Safety First

- ◆ Make sure smoke and fire detectors or carbon monoxide detectors have fresh batteries.
- ◆ Check fire extinguishers to ensure they're fully charged
- ◆ Check and replace furnace filters and clean vents.
- ◆ Consider having a professional clean your heating ducts.
- ◆ If you have a wood-burning fireplace, have the chimney cleaned to prevent creosote buildup.

## In or Out of a Shed

- ◆ Detach hoses for storage in the shed.
- ◆ Protect outdoor furniture from winter weather. Cover or store items like seat cushions and umbrellas. Larger pieces and grill will need a waterproof cover.
- ◆ Many items kept in a shed won't survive a freeze, so remove paints, caulks and liquid materials to a warmer location (like a basement).



## Roof and Windows

- ◆ Replace shingles that are loose or missing.
- ◆ Clean the gutters by removing leaves and other debris.
- ◆ Keep weather from finding ways inside your home by caulking gaps around window or door frames.
- ◆ Remove screens and put up storm windows. Clean the windows outside while you're at it, and label the screens so it'll be easier to reposition them in the spring.
- ◆ Your clean and checked chimney won't do much good without wood for a fire, so cover up the woodpile to keep it dry and make sure you've got a supply of kindling.

For other maintenance, safety or energy saving tips, check out these websites or other resources: [www.kmhomeinspection.com](http://www.kmhomeinspection.com) or [www.denverwater.org](http://www.denverwater.org)



  
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