

# Your Home Maintenance Checklist For Fall



Keeping your home in good condition can help you stay on a budget and remain independent. Visit [my.aarpfoundation.org](https://my.aarpfoundation.org) for more helpful tips for managing life's ups and downs.

<b>Clean gutters and downspouts</b> <i>Keep water draining properly by removing leaves, ensure brackets are secured</i>
<b>Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors</b> <i>Test every alarm in your home, replacing batteries if needed</i>
<b>Prep heating system for cooler temps</b> <i>Replace HVAC filters, bleed air from radiators, and schedule annual maintenance with a professional</i>
<b>Have fireplace and chimney cleaned and inspected</b> <i>Make sure they check the flue for a tight seal when it's closed to prevent heat loss</i>
<b>Fertilize and reseed lawn</b> <i>Cooler fall weather is ideal for seed germination</i>
<b>Trim trees close to the house</b> <i>Consider hiring a professional to trim branches out of reach from ground level and report limbs close to power lines to local officials</i>
<b>Inspect attic ventilation</b> <i>Make sure eave vents are uncovered to prevent potential ice dams</i>
<b>Prep plumbing for winter</b> <i>Turn off external water lines for hoses and sprinklers; make sure indoor pipes are well insulated</i>
<b>Change summer screens to storm windows and doors</b> <i>Install weather stripping around window and door frames to prevent drafts</i>

## Other Resources to Ease Your Budget

- ✓ **Get Paid For Caregiving.** Did you know there are government programs that can help pay for caregiving expenses when taking care of a loved one? [Discover if you're eligible to get paid.](#)
- ✓ **Find A Ride.** Need a ride to the doctor, the grocery store, or pharmacy? Find free or low-cost transportation options near you [here](#).
- ✓ **Lower Your Bills.** Explore [these helpful tips](#) for saving money on your internet, phone, energy, and water bills each month.

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