

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 for more helpful tips for managing life's ups and downs.

Clean gutters and downspouts <i>Keep water draining properly by removing leaves, ensure brackets are secured</i>
Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors <i>Test every alarm in your home, replacing batteries if needed</i>
Prep heating system for cooler temps <i>Replace HVAC filters, bleed air from radiators, and schedule annual maintenance with a professional</i>
Have fireplace and chimney cleaned and inspected <i>Make sure they check the flue for a tight seal when it's closed to prevent heat loss</i>
Fertilize and reseed lawn <i>Cooler fall weather is ideal for seed germination</i>
Trim trees close to the house <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>
Inspect attic ventilation <i>Make sure eave vents are uncovered to prevent potential ice dams</i>
Prep plumbing for winter <i>Turn off external water lines for hoses and sprinklers; make sure indoor pipes are well insulated</i>
Change summer screens to storm windows and doors <i>Install weather stripping around window and door frames to prevent drafts</i>
Seal windows and doors <i>Add weather stripping or caulk to keep out drafts and lower heating costs</i>
Check railings and steps <i>Make sure outdoor handrails and steps are sturdy to reduce the risk of falls in wet or icy weather</i>
Add extra lighting <i>Replace dim bulbs and consider nightlights for safety as days get shorter</i>
Stock up on cool weather supplies <i>Keep salt, shovels, or non-slip mats handy before the first frost</i>
Store summer items until next year <i>Put away garden tools, hoses, and outdoor furniture to protect them from damage</i>

Other Resources to Ease Your Budget

- ✓ **Pay Less for Prescriptions.** Did you know there are resources available to help [lower the cost of your medications](#)?
- ✓ **Find Affordable Senior Housing.** Struggling to keep up with your rent payments? You may be eligible for [programs that can help](#) you pay less each month.
- ✓ **Get Money Back.** Home values are going up. Learn [six ways to lower your property tax bill](#).

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