

# Fall Home Maintenance Checklist

Now that the summer sun isn't so sweltering hot, it's the perfect time to do some home maintenance tasks to make sure you're set before the winter cold and snow hits!

- Test your smoke detector** | When you set your clocks to "fall back," take an extra minute to test the smoke detectors to make sure they're still working and no one has borrowed the battery for something else.
- Make exterior repairs** | The cooler days of fall make it a great time to fix up issues on your house that you may have put off due to the heat. Double check for places where wildlife might try to sneak inside for a warm hiding spot.
- Shut off exterior faucets** | Protect yourself from freezing pipes by turning off faucets, draining and storing hoses.
- Clean gutters and downspouts** | All those colorful leaves are pretty. But they can cause damage if they become clogged in your gutters. Make sure to follow standard safety guidelines when climbing up ladders (including having a buddy to spot you!).
  - Add weatherstripping** | Or for an easy, reusable option, cover windows with bubble wrap. It helps keep heat in (and cold out).
  - Have a fireplace? Call in the professionals** | For a cleaning that is.
  - Take care of your landscaping** | Prune trees (especially those near power lines) and shrubs and fertilize and reseed your lawn.

