

Autumn Home Maintenance Checklist

Exterior



- Inspect caulking around windows, doors, utility penetrations (I.E. hose bibs, furnace pipes, gas pipes) and other exterior caulked areas as shown in the picture. Remove any cracked or deteriorated caulking and replace.
- Inspect and repair any damaged or missing weather-stripping on exterior doors.
- Replace exterior light bulbs with CFL's to improve energy efficiency. Check each exterior light for proper operation.
- Clean out all gutters. Inspect gutter for leaks, loose joints and missing downspout extensions. Extensions should terminate a minimum of 5' from the house.
- Inspect the shingles on your roof, either from a ladder or from the ground with binoculars. Look for any damaged or missing shingles. Make any necessary repairs before the snow flies.
- Inspect the chimney from the ground with binoculars. Look for any deteriorated mortar joints, loose bricks and cracks in the chimney cap. Hire a contractor to repair any cracks or loose mortar joints before winter comes to avoid costly future repairs.
- Examine exterior hose bibs. If they are not the "frost-proof" style, winterize by shutting off the supply valve from the interior, then open the valve from the outside to drain the water.
- Replace any screens on doors and windows with storm windows (if applicable).
- Trim back any tree branches that overhang the roof.
- Trim back any shrubs or trees that are up against the house. Provide a minimum of 8" clearance between any plants and the house.
- Clear away fallen leaves from around the house at least weekly until the trees have lost all their leaves.
- Examine the dryer vent and clean out any lint built-up on, in or around it.

Interior



- Clean out the fireplace and inspect the firebox for cracks. Check visible portions of the fireplace and flue for creosote build up. Verify proper operation of the damper. With moderate use, the chimney will need annual cleaning by a professional chimney sweep.
- Contact a local HVAC technician to schedule an annual cleaning of your forced air furnace or boiler system.
- Inspect your furnace filter, changing as needed.
- Clean bathroom exhaust fan covers and kitchen exhaust fan filters.
- Test all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. These should be replaced every 10 years.
- Locate the shut-offs for the water supply and gas supply to the house. Familiarize yourself (and other adults in the house) on how to shut these utilities off in case of an emergency.

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