Fall home maintenance checklist

Fall jobs

- [ ] Service the furnace or heat pump **September**
  A cracked heat exchanger can leak carbon monoxide. An annual check is how it gets caught.
- [ ] Check exterior caulk and weatherstripping **September**
  Drafts and water get in through the same gaps.
- [ ] Switch ceiling fan direction **October**
  It makes a room feel a few degrees cooler or warmer for almost nothing.
- [ ] Winterize outdoor faucets **October if you have one**
  Water left in the pipe freezes, splits it, and floods the wall when it thaws.
- [ ] Replace alarm batteries **November**
  The low-battery chirp tends to start at 3 a.m. Doing them all on one day avoids that.
- [ ] Clean the gutters **November**
  Blocked gutters overflow against the foundation and rot the fascia boards.
- [ ] Inspect the roof **November**
  A small repair caught early prevents a leak into the attic.

Once this season

- [ ] Change HVAC filter **every 3 months**
  A clogged filter makes the system work harder, costs more to run and shortens its life.

Twice a year

- [ ] Check for leaks under sinks
  A slow drip does its damage long before anyone notices a puddle.
- [ ] Check tub and shower caulk
  Gaps let water into the wall behind the tile, where it rots quietly.
- [ ] Replace whole-house water filter **if you have one**
  A spent filter stops filtering and slows water pressure through the whole house.
- [ ] Replace fridge water filter **if you have one**
  Old filters stop filtering and can slow the ice maker.
- [ ] Lubricate the garage door
  A noisy door is wearing out. A door that does not reverse is a safety hazard.

Every month

- [ ] Test smoke and CO alarms
- [ ] Check fire extinguishers
- [ ] Test GFCI outlets
- [ ] Test the sump pump **if you have one**
- [ ] Top up water softener salt **if you have one**
- [ ] Clean the dishwasher filter
- [ ] Clean range hood filter

General guidance for a typical Northern Hemisphere home; your manufacturer's instructions come first. Free from household.illuminationdevelopment.com