

# Top Ten Fall Maintenance Tips

As the temperatures start to drop and winter approaches we start to feel the need to hibernate and renew after a long, busy summer. Before doing that there are a few things that you need to take care of to ensure that you have a safe and energy saving winter. Here are 10 tips to get you started.

## 1. Check the Heating System

Don't get caught without heat once the temperatures drop! Hire a professional to check your heating system and clean it where applicable to ensure you will have heat when those temperatures drop.

## 2. Check Your Roof

Winter is not a good time to be on your roof dealing with repairs. Do a thorough check now for loose shingles and check your roof's heating system if applicable. Also look around and take care of any overhanging tree limbs that might break and cause damage during the winter as well.

## 3. Drain Outside Water Faucets

Stop frozen pipes by draining and shut off external faucets. In extreme temperatures wrap the faucet or use insulated faucet covers.

## 4. Clean Out Gutters

After the leaves have completely fallen you'll want to clean all of the debris from your gutters. If your gutters aren't too full you can simply run your hose through your gutters to clean them. This is also a good test to see if the water is flowing far enough from your home's foundation.

## 5. Inspect Your Garage Door

Many times we hardly give our garage door a thought but in all actuality it is the largest moving part in our home. This makes it the deadliest item in our home when it doesn't work properly. It wouldn't hurt to schedule a quick maintenance check a couple of times a year. Tighten any loose nuts, bolts or other parts. Check for rust on and make sure the weatherstripping at the bottom of the door is in good shape. Make sure the garage door's safety feature works properly by placing a small object under the door and close the door with your transmitter. The door should reverse when it touches the object.

## 6. Put Away Lawn Furniture

Now is the time to store your lawn furniture. Place everything in a dry location, away from the snow, wind and rain that winter can bring. Store pads and cushions so that rodents won't find them and use them for their winter home.

## 7. Clean Out Garage

During the winter months most of us need our garage more than in the summer months. Lawn furniture, bicycles, summer equipment and cars will need the room. Take a couple of hours to clean, organize and get rid of anything accumulated over the summer that you don't need.

## 8. Weatherstrip Windows

One of the most energy saving steps you can take this fall is to check the seal of your windows and doors. Simply place a piece of paper in the window or door. Shut the window or door and pull the paper out. If you are able to pull the paper out without it tearing then you are losing a great deal of energy and will want to consider installing weatherstripping.

## 9. Check The Carbon Monoxide Detectors

With heating season approaching we want to make sure a working carbon monoxide detector is installed on every floor, preferably outside each bedroom. Test each alarm and replace batteries to ensure your family's safety this winter.

## 10. Clear Out Fireplace

As cold weather approaches we all crave a cozy fire. Make sure your fireplace is safe by removing in old ashes and testing the flue. Have a chimney sweep inspect and clean your chimney to reduce the risk of fire.

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