Fall Home Checklist

Get the house ready for cold weather. Do it in September or October.

Heating

- [ ] Change the furnace filter
- [ ] Book a furnace tune-up
- [ ] Test the thermostat on heat mode
- [ ] Clear 3 feet around the furnace and water heater
- [ ] Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, change batteries

Outside

- [ ] Clean gutters and downspouts
- [ ] Point downspouts 4+ feet from the house
- [ ] Shut off and drain outdoor faucets
- [ ] Unhook and store garden hoses
- [ ] Blow out the sprinkler system
- [ ] Trim branches touching the roof

Roof and walls

- [ ] Look for missing or curled shingles
- [ ] Check flashing around the chimney and vents
- [ ] Seal gaps around windows and doors
- [ ] Check weatherstripping on doors

Fireplace

- [ ] Have the chimney swept and inspected
- [ ] Check the damper opens and closes
- [ ] Stock dry firewood away from the house

Yard and garage

- [ ] Service the snow blower and add fresh fuel
- [ ] Put snow shovels and ice melt where you can reach them
- [ ] Drain fuel or add stabilizer to the mower
- [ ] Rake leaves off the lawn

> **Tip:** Take a photo of your furnace label and filter size now. You will need both every time you buy a filter or call for service.