

Fall is Here! Fall Maintenance Tips for Your Home

It's the time of year where the leaves are falling and the days and nights are cooler. It is the perfect time to keep safety in mind and take actions to get your home ready for winter.

Some activities you may want to accomplish include:

- Clean your gutters and downspouts to prevent ice buildup, which can leak onto sidewalks and create slippery surfaces
- Check drainage areas to ensure they are free of leaves and debris, to reduce flooded areas
- Rake leaves out of the yard and off sidewalks to avoid slick surfaces, making sure to stay hydrated during the task
- Trim dead branches from trees to prevent falling limbs from hitting the house (or a person)
- Have wood-burning fireplaces inspected, cleaned, and repaired to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and reduce the possibility of a chimney fire
- Change the direction of your ceiling fans to move warm air downward in the room
- Check the batteries and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they function as intended
- Clean dryer vents to make the dryer more efficient and reduce the risk of fire
- Call a professional to service your furnace, cleaning and replacing filters as needed
- Make winter tools and equipment easily accessible to avoid injury during the wintry season
- Be sure to stretch before any strenuous activity



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Visit these resources for additional fall home maintenance tips:

Better Business Bureau	https://www.bbb.org/article/news-releases/23238-bbb-tip-fall-home-maintenance
Farmers' Almanac	https://www.farmersalmanac.com/fall-weather-safety-tips-19118
Framework Home Ownership	https://www.frameworkhomeownership.org/blog/prepare-your-home-for-the-fall
Michigan Health	https://healthblog.uofmhealth.org/wellness-prevention/10-safety-tips-for-fall-yardwork

For additional information on the SMCX's services, please visit the SMCX-hosted website at: <https://www.smcx.org/>.