

Fall Home Checklist (October–November) — Free Sample

Typical single-family house. About 4–6 hours total, spread over a few weekends. Skip what doesn't apply.

Outside

- ☐ Clean gutters and downspouts; make sure water drains away from the house (1–2 hr)
- ☐ Look over the roof from the ground for missing or lifted shingles (10 min)
- ☐ Disconnect hoses; shut off and drain outdoor faucets (cold-winter areas) (15 min)
- ☐ Drain and store sprinkler lines, or schedule a blow-out (30 min / vendor)
- ☐ Seal gaps around windows, doors, and pipes with caulk (1 hr)
- ☐ Trim branches touching the roof or siding (30–60 min)
- ☐ Rake leaves off the lawn and away from vents (1 hr)
- ☐ Store patio furniture and grill cover (30 min)

Heating and air

- ☐ Replace furnace filter (5 min) — write the size here: _____
- ☐ Schedule furnace tune-up if not done in 12 months (vendor)
- ☐ Test the thermostat on heat before the first cold night (5 min)
- ☐ Reverse ceiling fans to clockwise (low speed) (5 min)
- ☐ Vacuum floor vents and returns (20 min)

Safety

- ☐ Test smoke and CO alarms; replace batteries (15 min)
- ☐ Check fire extinguisher gauge and date (2 min)
- ☐ Have the chimney inspected before first fire (vendor)
- ☐ Check outdoor lights and replace bulbs (15 min)

Inside

- ☐ Check weatherstripping on doors; replace if you see daylight (20 min)
- ☐ Flush a few gallons from the water heater to clear sediment (30 min)
- ☐ Look under sinks for drips (10 min)
- ☐ Clean the dryer vent line (30 min)
- ☐ Swap screens for storm windows if you have them (30 min)

Get ready for winter

- ☐ Snow shovel, ice melt, and scraper on hand
 - ☐ Flashlights and batteries in one known spot
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First 90 Days in a House — Short List

- ☐ Find and label the main water shut-off, gas shut-off, and breaker panel
- ☐ Change the locks or rekey
- ☐ Replace all HVAC filters; note the sizes
- ☐ Test every smoke and CO alarm; add missing ones
- ☐ Write down appliance model numbers and ages
- ☐ Start a service log (date, task, cost, who did it)
- ☐ Save contacts for a plumber, electrician, and HVAC company

General guidance only. When in doubt, call a licensed pro.