

# Home Maintenance Checklist

## FALL/WINTER CHECKLIST

### Outside

- Check all exterior weather stripping & caulking around windows & doors; replace or repair as needed.
- Check for cracks & holes in house siding; fill with caulking as necessary.
- Remove window air conditioners or put weatherproof covers on them.
- Inspect and seal driveways, walkways, and patios to prevent freeze-thaw cracking.
- Take down screens (if removable type); clean & store them.
- Ensure outdoor lighting is functional for shorter daylight hours.
- Drain outside faucets.
- Clean gutters & drainpipes so they won't be clogged with leaves.
- Store outdoor furniture and garden tools or cover them to protect from winter weather.
- Check roof, flashing around vents, skylights, & chimney for leaks.
- Check chimney for damaged chimney caps & loose or missing mortar.
- Check chimney flue; clean obstructions; make sure damper closes tightly.
- Aerate and fertilize the lawn before the first frost to encourage healthy spring growth.

### Inside

- Check insulation wherever possible; replace or add as necessary.
- Inspect fireplace/wood stove for safety and creosote buildup.
- Have heating system & heat pump serviced; change or clean filters on furnace.
- Drain water heater & remove sediment from tank; clean burner surfaces; adjust burners.
- Vacuum and clean drapes, blinds, furniture, and vents to reduce dust before winter.
- Test smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors; replace the batteries.
- Check all faucets for leaks; replace washers if necessary.
- Inspect and clean dryer vent to reduce fire risk.
- Check windows and doors for drafts; install draft stoppers if needed.
- Reverse ceiling fan direction to clockwise for better warm air circulation.
- Check & clean humidifier in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- Service and test backup generator (if you have one).
- Stock up on winter supplies like snow-melt, candles, firewood, portable power-banks, and supplies for your car's emergency kit.

