Fall Home Maintenance Checklist

Fall · Sep–Nov · 12 jobs

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Tick each job as you finish it. Every job has a step-by-step guide with pictures at the address shown.

- [ ] **Run the heat once before you need it**
  Find out the furnace won't start before a cold night does.
  grabthehammer.com/furnace-not-turning-on/

- [ ] **Expect a dusty smell on the first run**
  It's normal and fades within an hour or so; know which smells aren't.
  grabthehammer.com/burning-smell-when-heat-turns-on/

- [ ] **Replace the HVAC filter**
  Start the heating season with a clean one.
  grabthehammer.com/change-hvac-air-filter/

- [ ] **Check the thermostat and its batteries**
  A blank thermostat can look like a dead furnace.
  grabthehammer.com/thermostat-not-working/

- [ ] **Bleed the radiators**
  Cold spots at the top of a radiator mean trapped air.
  grabthehammer.com/bleed-a-radiator/

- [ ] **Clean the gutters after the leaves drop**
  Clogged gutters freeze and pull away in winter.
  grabthehammer.com/clean-gutters/

- [ ] **Drain and disconnect garden hoses**
  A hose left on can split the pipe inside the wall when it freezes.
  grabthehammer.com/winterize-outdoor-faucet/

- [ ] **Protect pipes from freezing**
  Insulate pipes in the garage, crawl space and outside walls.
  grabthehammer.com/thaw-frozen-pipe/

- [ ] **Seal drafty windows and doors**
  Weatherstripping is cheap and pays back all winter.
  grabthehammer.com/drafty-windows/

- [ ] **Test smoke and CO alarms**
  Fuel-burning heat runs all winter; make sure the alarms work.
  grabthehammer.com/carbon-monoxide-alarm-beeping/

- [ ] **Fix a wobbly ceiling fan**
  Many fans have a reverse switch for winter; fix any wobble while you're up there.
  grabthehammer.com/ceiling-fan-wobble/

- [ ] **Flush sediment from the water heater**
  Sediment cuts how much hot water you get.
  grabthehammer.com/hot-water-runs-out-fast/

Done: ____ of 12 Date started: _____

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