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TEN

TASKS TO TACKLE BEFORE FALL ARRIVES

Fall is here. Now's the time to finish up any last-minute maintenance projects and get your home and yard ready.



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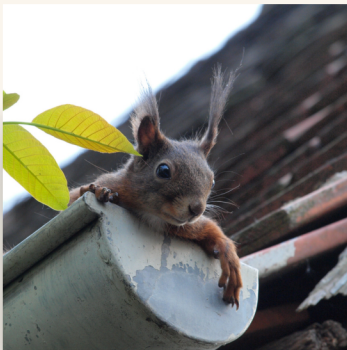
Cooler weather is coming — prep your home for its arrival while it's still nice outside. The days are getting shorter, and the nights are getting cooler. The kids are trudging off to school again with their backpacks, and leaves are falling from the trees.

Yep, it's official: Fall is here. Now's the time to finish up any last-minute maintenance projects and get your home and yard ready.



FIX CRACKS IN CONCRETE AND ASPHALT

Depending on where you live, these may be the last weeks this year when it will be warm and sunny enough to repair driveway and sidewalk cracks.

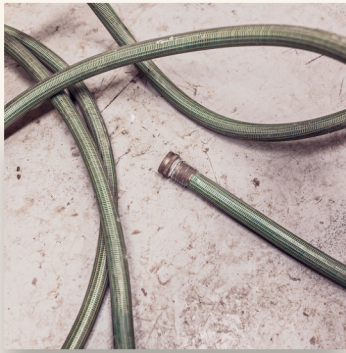


CLEAN OUT THE GUTTERS

No one loves this job, but we all need to do it annually. A few hours of work can prevent big problems later on.

While you're up on that ladder, visually inspect your roof for damaged shingles, flashing, or vents. You can also inspect the chimney for any missing mortar and repair it by tuck-pointing if needed.





TURN OFF OUTDOOR PLUMBING

Drain outdoor faucets and sprinkler systems, and cover them to protect them from the freezing weather to come.



START COMPOSTING

If you don't already have compost bins, now's the time to make or get some. All those accumulated autumn leaves will bring you gardening gold next summer!



CLEAN OUTDOOR FURNITURE AND GARDENING TOOLS

It may not yet be time to put them away, but go ahead and clean your outdoor furniture and gardening tools so they're ready for storage over the winter.



PLANT BULBS FOR SPRING-BLOOMING FLOWERS

Plant bulbs in October, as soon as the soil has cooled down, to reap big rewards next spring. If you've never planted bulbs before, select a spot in your yard that gets full sun during the day.





PREPARE YOUR FURNACE FOR WINTER DUTY

If you didn't already do it last spring, consider getting your furnace professionally serviced in time for the cold season. At the minimum, though, visually inspect your furnace and replace the furnace filter before turning it on for the first time.



CLEAN THE FIREPLACE AND CHIMNEY

Clean out the fireplace, inspect the flue, and ensure the doors and shields are sound. Have the chimney professionally swept if needed. Now's also the time to stock up on firewood!



KEEP THE WARM AIR INSIDE AND THE COLD AIR OUTSIDE

Inspect your windows and doors. Check weatherstripping by opening a door, placing a piece of paper in the entryway, and closing the door. The paper should not slide back and forth easily. If it does, the weather stripping isn't doing its job.



CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF YOUR CEILING FANS

Changing your ceiling fan direction to clockwise allows it to keep warm air circulating through the home. It also takes the stress off your HVAC unit, resulting in a more comfortable home and lower energy bills.





THANK *you*

Once you finish with your autumn home checklist, you will be ready to enjoy the season in your warm, comfortable home.

If you would like a professional price analysis of your home, contact me directly at:



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