



Getting Your Home Ready for Fall

A simple seasonal checklist to protect your home, prevent costly surprises & enjoy the cooler months

Fall is one of my favorite times of year — cooler mornings, football weekends, changing leaves and finally being able to spend time outside without melting!

It's also the perfect time to give your home a little attention before colder weather arrives. A few small projects now can help prevent bigger (and more expensive) problems later.



OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

☐ Clean gutters & downspouts

Remove leaves, pine straw and debris so rainwater can drain properly. Make sure downspouts are directing water away from your foundation.

☐ Take a walk around the roof

From the ground, look for missing or damaged shingles, loose flashing or anything that looks unusual. If you spot something questionable, have a professional take a closer look.

☐ Check trees & limbs

Look for dead branches or limbs hanging over your roof, driveway or power lines. Fall and winter storms can turn a questionable limb into a much bigger problem.

☐ Inspect exterior caulking

Check around windows and doors for gaps or deteriorated caulk. Sealing small openings can help keep moisture and cold air outside where they belong.

☐ Disconnect & store garden hoses

Before freezing temperatures arrive, disconnect hoses and protect exterior faucets as needed.

☐ Give the yard a little attention

Trim shrubs away from the house, clean up leaves and debris, and take care of any landscaping that could trap moisture against your home's exterior.



HVAC + SAFETY

☐ Schedule your fall HVAC service

Have your heating system checked before you actually need it.

☐ **Change your air filters**

An easy one that's also easy to forget!

☐ **Test smoke & carbon monoxide detectors**

Replace batteries if needed and make sure every detector is working properly.

☐ **Have the fireplace & chimney inspected**

If you have a wood-burning fireplace, consider having the chimney professionally inspected and cleaned before fireplace season.

☐ **Check your fire extinguishers**

Make sure they're accessible, haven't expired and everyone in the house knows where they are.

 INSIDE THE HOUSE

☐ **Check windows & doors for drafts**

Inspect weatherstripping and door sweeps. Small gaps can make your heating system work harder.

☐ **Look under sinks & around appliances**

Check for slow leaks around sinks, toilets, the dishwasher, refrigerator and washing machine.

☐ **Check your attic**

Look for signs of moisture, roof leaks, pests or insulation issues.

☐ **Reverse your ceiling fans**

Most ceiling fans have a switch that reverses the blade direction. In cooler months, running them clockwise at a low speed can help circulate warm air.

 GARAGE + STORAGE

☐ **Do a quick garage clean-out**

Before holiday decorations start coming down from the attic, spend an hour clearing things you no longer need.

☐ **Put away summer equipment**

Clean and store outdoor furniture, gardening supplies and seasonal equipment.

☐ **Check garage-door weatherstripping**

Look at the seal along the bottom of the door and replace it if it's cracked or no longer making good contact.

 THE "I'VE BEEN MEANING TO DO THAT" LIST

Fall is also a great time to tackle those little projects you've been ignoring:

- ☐ Touch up paint
- ☐ Repair loose cabinet hardware
- ☐ Fix dripping faucets
- ☐ Replace burned-out bulbs
- ☐ Clean dryer vents
- ☐ Deep-clean carpets and rugs
- ☐ Clean out closets
- ☐ Donate things you no longer use
- ☐ Organize the pantry
- ☐ Power wash patios and walkways

One more idea...

Take pictures of your house this fall.

Photograph each room, major appliances, electronics, valuable belongings and the exterior of your home. Save the photos somewhere secure. Having an updated visual inventory can be incredibly helpful if you ever need to file an insurance claim.

Thinking About Selling in the Next Year?

You don't have to wait until you're ready to put a sign in the yard to start preparing.

In fact, I would much rather walk through your home **months before you plan to sell**. We can talk about what may be worth doing, what probably isn't worth spending money on, and which projects can wait.

Sometimes the best pre-listing advice I give is:

"Don't spend money on that."

If you're curious about your home's current value or wondering what I would recommend before putting it on the market, just reach out. I'm always happy to take a look.

Jennifer Fleury, REALTOR®

Coldwell Banker

Atlanta Metro Real Estate

Helping homeowners make smart decisions about their homes — whether you're selling next month, next year, or not at all.

