

Fall Preparation

Fall is the time for warm sweaters, bonfires and pumpkin spice coffee.

If you're a homeowner, preparing for fall isn't just stocking up on all of these items. There is some major preventive maintenance that needs to be performed before the chilly weather hits.

GUTTER WORK

Cleaning your gutters during the fall and preventing leaves, sticks and dirt from clogging them is essential to protecting your home from water damage and the elements. We have five reasons to clean your gutters this fall and keep them clean.

Water damage can occur in both the exterior and interior of your home if your gutters are clogged with leaves, dirt and sticks. As it rains, water will not be able to drain properly, causing your gutters to overflow.

Cleaning your gutters is essential to the protection of your roof. Clogged gutters can trap water in places on your roof causing it to rot and become leaky.

Nature can call your clogged gutters home if they are not taken care of properly. Critters such as birds, rodents and insects can all make a new



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REAL ESTATE 101

Fall Tree Care

If you have trees on your property, they too might need special care in the fall. The United States Department of Agriculture's "Tree Owner's Manual" offers tips for year-round and seasonal maintenance. Read it at www.bit.ly/32XpdD6.

cozy home out of your clogged gutters. Leading some to possibly even enter your home.

One of the most expensive and labor intensive projects that can occur in your home is foundation work. Clogged gutters won't let water travel away from your home, causing it to

pool around your foundation. Water can find its way into cracks and freeze over the winter, causing the water to freeze and expand, damaging your foundation.

CHECK FOR DRAFTS

According to Energy.gov,

heat loss through windows are responsible for 25% to 30% of residential heating and cooling energy use.

Before the chilly winds of fall hit, take time to check your windows for air leaks. If your windows are in good condition, they may just need

to be updated with fresh caulk or weatherstrips. Energy.gov says to add weather treatment and coverings.

If your windows aren't in good condition and need to be replaced, there are a couple of decisions you will need to consider about the type of windows you will purchase.

For the most energy efficient windows, look for the EnergyStar label on the window.

The National Fenestration Rating Council provides a label on EnergyStar products to give you the most efficient windows for your needs.

QUICK FALL PREP

Another small — but just as important — fall prep project you need to keep in mind is testing winter equipment such as snow blowers, if you live in a very cold winter climate. Examine your pool cover for holes or any other damage.

Inspect your driveway and weather strip your garage door, if need be. Heat loss can occur through your garage, so make sure it is weatherproof.

Check the batteries in all equipment to avoid unnecessary travel in the dangerous winter weather. Test and check battery life in equipment such as smoke and carbon dioxide detectors in your home.



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HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

Purchase and sale agreement: the contract between the buyer and seller stating terms, conditions, sales price and other pertinent information about the property being purchased.

SOURCE: MLS.com

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