

# Home Owners Fall Check List

Presented by T2 Home Services

- ✓ **Disconnect garden hoses.**
  - Water that backs up during the winter can freeze inside the house, cracking pipes.
  - Drain hoses and store them in a protected shed or garage.
- ✓ **Turn off valves to exterior faucets.**
  - If your home is equipped with separate shut-off valves for exterior hose bibs and sprinkler lines, ensure these are shut off prior to winter weather.
  - Drain exterior faucets that cannot be shut off and cover with insulated covers.
- ✓ **Seal cracks around windows and doors.**
  - Caulking can dry and crack, leaving gaps that allow winter weather to enter the homes wall cavity or even to the interior.
    - Apply new exterior grade caulking to gaps around doors, windows, utility penetrations as well as siding and trim joints.
- ✓ **Trim back trees and shrubs.**
  - Winter weather can cause tree and shrub branches to contact home and damage structure.
    - Recommend trimming tree branches to maintain at least 5' from home.
    - All other vegetation should be kept at least 12" from home all year round to reduce moisture and pest intrusions.
- ✓ **Clean Roof and Gutters.**
  - Ensure roof surfaces are clear of leaves and other debris so that the roof can properly shed the wet winter weather.
  - Keep gutters clean and properly sloped to prevent overflow that can cause serious water damage to the home.
  - Recommend discharging gutter run-off 4'-6' downhill and away from home to maintain foundation integrity.
- ✓ **Heating and conditioning system check.**
  - Now is the time to give your heating and ventilation system a complete physical.
    - Recommend having a certified HVAC technician perform a maintenance check every year before winter.
- ✓ **Replace batteries in Smoke and CO Detectors.**
  - Its is recommended by the US Fire Marshall to replace batteries and test your detectors annually.
  - Exception is the sealed lithium "10 Year" Units. (*Still need tested annually*)
    - *These where introduced in 1995 and may need to be replaced now.*
      - Recommend placing date on these units when replaced and logging that information at your electrical panel.
- ✓ **Test GFCI Receptacles.**
  - This is also a great time to test all of your [GFCI/AFCI receptacles](#).
    - *Wet weather and unsafe electrical is a dangerous combination.*
  - Make sure each receptacle or breaker properly trips and then resets.
    - *Immediately replace any that fail.*
- ✓ **Check your fireplace and chimney.**
  - Make sure the damper opens and closes properly.
  - Check chimney flue for debris and bird nests.
  - Check the firebox for and loose or cracked bricks.
  - A Chimney sweep can help with any of these tasks as well as cleaning the flue.



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