CANADIAN BUDGET BINDER.com

FALL HOME MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

A practical Canadian checklist to help get your home and yard ready for winter

Name: _____	Fall / Year: _____

ROOF, GUTTERS & EXTERIOR

- ☐ Inspect the roof from the ground for missing, loose or damaged shingles.
- ☐ Clear leaves and debris from eavestroughs/gutters and downspouts.
- ☐ Make sure downspouts drain water away from the foundation.
- ☐ Check siding, brick, foundation and exterior caulking for cracks or gaps.
- ☐ Keep exterior vents and air intakes clear of leaves and debris.
- ☐ Check chimney/flue for visible damage or blockage; arrange professional service if needed.
- ☐ Check exterior lights and replace failed bulbs before darker evenings.

YARD & GARDEN

- ☐ Rake or mulch fallen leaves and clear leaves from drains and walkways.
- ☐ Remove dead annuals and diseased plant material; tidy garden beds.
- ☐ Plant spring-flowering bulbs before the ground freezes, where appropriate.
- ☐ Protect young trees, shrubs and tender plants as needed for your climate.
- ☐ Trim dead or hazardous branches; hire a professional for unsafe tree work.
- ☐ Do a final lawn cut and store planters, decor and garden accessories.
- ☐ Empty, clean and store rain barrels according to the manufacturer's guidance.

WATER & FREEZE PROTECTION

- ☐ Disconnect, drain and store garden hoses.
- ☐ Shut off and drain exterior water lines/hose bibs if your setup requires it.
- ☐ Winterize irrigation/sprinkler systems according to manufacturer instructions.
- ☐ Check outdoor faucets and plumbing for leaks before freezing temperatures.
- ☐ Know where your main water shut-off is and make sure it is accessible.

WINDOWS, DOORS & DRAFTS

- ☐ Check doors and windows for drafts, damaged seals and worn weatherstripping.
- ☐ Renew exterior caulking where appropriate before cold weather.
- ☐ Make sure exterior doors close and latch properly.
- ☐ Clean windows while weather permits and install storm windows if used.
- ☐ Check the door between an attached garage and the home for a good seal.

SAFETY: Do only maintenance you can perform safely. Use a qualified professional for roof, tree, chimney, fuel-burning appliance, electrical or other work beyond your skills or safe reach.

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HEATING, VENTILATION & SAFETY

- ☐ Inspect, clean or replace the furnace/HVAC filter as recommended by the manufacturer.
- ☐ Schedule heating-system service when due; use a qualified professional.
- ☐ Keep supply and return-air grilles clean and unobstructed.
- ☐ Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries/alarms as required by the manufacturer.
- ☐ Test carbon monoxide alarms monthly and confirm required alarms are installed.
- ☐ Have fuel-burning appliances, vents and chimneys maintained as recommended.
- ☐ Check your fire extinguisher and review your household fire-escape plan.

GARAGE, TOOLS & OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

- ☐ Clean and organize the garage so winter gear is easy to reach.
- ☐ Clean, dry and store garden tools; sharpen or service tools as needed.
- ☐ Prepare the lawn mower and other seasonal equipment for storage per the owner's manual.
- ☐ Inspect and prepare the snowblower before the first snowfall.
- ☐ Move shovels, ice melt/salt and traction supplies somewhere easy to access.
- ☐ Store fuels and household chemicals safely in original labelled containers.
- ☐ Never run fuel-burning equipment or a vehicle inside a garage.

DECK, PATIO & BBQ

- ☐ Clean and store or securely cover patio furniture.
- ☐ Sweep decks, porches, patios and walkways; repair trip hazards.
- ☐ Inspect deck boards, stairs, railings and fences for loose or damaged areas.
- ☐ Clean and store/cover the BBQ according to manufacturer instructions.
- ☐ Clean recycling, green and garbage bins before freezing weather.
- ☐ Secure or store lightweight outdoor items before autumn windstorms.

WINTER-READY CHECK

- ☐ Put snow shovels, ice melt/salt and traction aids where you can reach them quickly.
- ☐ Check flashlights and household emergency supplies; replace expired items.
- ☐ Check exterior handrails and steps for safe winter use.
- ☐ Confirm dryer, furnace and other exhaust vents can remain clear of snow and ice.
- ☐ Review where snow will be piled so it does not block vents, meters or exits.
- ☐ Add seasonal home-maintenance costs to your budget before repairs become emergencies.

THINGS I ALWAYS FORGET

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Canadian winter reminder: Keep furnace, dryer and exterior exhaust vents clear of snow and ice; test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms regularly; follow provincial/territorial rules and manufacturer instructions.

Free printable from CanadianBudgetBinder.com - Add this checklist to your household or budget binder and reuse it every fall.