
FALL INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Safety first, and as always, only perform tasks you're comfortable with & can do safely. Contact a professional for everything else.

Your "fall" inspection should be fairly easy if you already completed one for "spring." The ultimate goal, is to prepare your home for the harsh winter months that may be coming.

FALL (GROUNDS)

- Clean & put away all **summer furnishings**.
 - Prep **lawn trimming equipment** for winter storage (fuel stabilizer, etc.)
 - Prepare **fall & winter equipment** (leaf/snow blowers, etc.) for service (oil change, plugs etc.)
 - Trim **shrubs & tree limbs** away from house & utility lines using "EXTREME CAUTION!"
 - Completely drain **irrigation systems** of all water.
 - Check **storm drains & channel drains** for debris & blockages.
 - Seal cracks in **driveways & patios** to help prevent winter ice heaving.
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FALL (HOUSE EXTERIOR)

- Internally shutoff all **hose bibs & water sources**.
 - Inspect **garage doors** & weatherstripping for wear & damage.
 - Inspect & service **garage door hardware** & openers for smooth operation (oil, tighten)
 - Check & seal all **foundation cracks**.
 - Clean & secure "pest cage" on **laundry & kitchen vent hoods**.
 - Inspect & caulk vulnerable **gaps in siding** & around windows & doors.
 - Look for loose or **peeling paint** on woodwork. Prime & one finish coat the exposed areas until a full paint job can be performed.
 - Service & clean **storm windows**, if present.
 - Check all **stairs and rails** for sturdiness.
 - Check exterior **light fixtures** for damage.
 - Ensure all **exterior outlets** are Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) protected.
 - Test all GFCI receptacles using the built-in **test button**.
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FALL (ROOF)

Note: Use Binoculars for roof inspection or hire a professional

- Inspect **gutter downspouts** for secure connections to the house & gutters above.
- Ensure gutter **downspouts drain** far enough away from your foundation.
- Inspect gutters for **debris**, fastening & proper **pitch** toward downspouts.
- Safely make a visual inspection of roof for areas of **sagging or bulging shingles**.
- Inspect roofing for **missing, damaged or dislodged shingles**.
- Inspect **chimney bricks** for damage & cracks.
- Inspect chimney for **worn or missing mortar joints**.
- Inspect **chimney cap** (if present) for damage & a secure connection to the crown.
- Inspect **chimney crown** for cracks, damage & missing mortar.

FALL (INTERIORS)

(Attic)

- Check for **signs of roof leakage**, particularly around vents, chimneys & valley areas.
- Check for **adequate insulation** as well as condition, position & coverage.
- Look for **signs of moisture** buildup. (mildew, underside roof discoloration)
- Check **ventilation openings** (gable/soffit) for blockages (insulation, nests, etc.)

(Rooms)

- Check all areas for signs of roof or plumbing **leakage** (stains, scaling paint, etc.)
- Have any **fireplaces or wood stoves** & flues checked & professionally cleaned.
- Check all **smoke & carbon monoxide detectors**. Replace batteries & test unit.
- Test **GFCI receptacles** in bathroom & kitchen areas.
- Vacuum & clean all **radiators, & air supply/return grilles**.
- Winterize or remove & store **room air conditioners**.
- Inspect **window sills** where a/c units were, for water damage.
- Switch **ceiling fans** to rotate clockwise to circulate higher “warmer” air.

(Basement)

- Check all **smoke & carbon monoxide detectors**. Replace batteries & test unit.
- Replace **furnace filter** and schedule a professional service & cleaning.
- Drain or insulate **water lines** that are vulnerable to freezing.
- Check **temperature setting** of the water heater. Follow manufacturer’s recommended settings.
- Inspect entire **plumbing system** & fixture locations for signs of leaks or blockages.
- Confirm proper operation & drain flow for **sump pumps**, if present.

FALL (ADDITIONAL TIPS)

- In addition to servicing, **organize snow equipment** (blower, shovels, ice melt) where they’d be easier to retrieve in the event of a sudden storm.
- Clean & service your **electrical generator**, if you have one. (change fuel, oil, etc.)
- Service **chainsaws** & sharpen or replace chains.
- Purchase **fuel oil** if possible, before colder months arrive & rates increase.
- Research better **electricity rates** through winter, to potentially save on increased usage (room heaters, holiday lighting, etc.)

You can visit the following sites to check **rates in Connecticut**:

www.energizect.com www.chooseenergy.com www.compareelectricity.com

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