

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR FALL

IN THE GARDEN

- Remove any dead or dying limbs from the trees
- Cut back your landscaping
- Bring in the potted plants
- Plant bulbs for spring flowers
- Fertilize and reseed your lawn
- Close the pool
- Clean and cover, or store, your patio furniture
- Winterize in-ground sprinklers and/or drip irrigation systems

AROUND THE HOUSE

- Clean out the gutters and downspouts
- Check all weather stripping around your doors and windows, and replace if needed
- Check the weather seal at the bottom of the garage door
- Check the roof and repairs any holes or loose shingles; check all flashing and replace any failed sealant
- Check exterior caulk, especially at corners of siding and around any entry points for wiring and plumbing
- Remove branches hanging over the roof
- If you live where it's cold enough to freeze, turn off outdoor plumbing; disconnect hoses and store indoors
- Fix cracks in your patio or driveway
- Fix any exterior peeling paint, before the weather makes it worse
- Get the windows cleaned

INSIDE THE HOUSE

- Check the fireplace for damage, creosote build-up and the occasional bird's nest—and have it cleaned
- Stock up on firewood
- Have your HVAC serviced
- Check all smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. If needed, replace batteries
- Make a dedicated space for coats, muddy shoes, umbrellas and all-weather gear
- Reverse your fans—if they turn clockwise, they'll circulate the warm air
- Clean your carpets
- Break out the humidifier
- Bring out the cozy bedding and store your summer-weight linens
- Change your air filters
- Insulate exposed water pipes (to avoid frozen pipes that could burst)
- Drain your hot water heater

IN THE GARAGE

- Winterize and store the lawn mower and other summer garden tools
- If you live in a snowy area, make sure your winter tools have been serviced and are easily accessible