



happy homes monthly

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CynthiaHash.com
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If your home is currently listed for sale with another real estate professional, please disregard this offer.

Preparing Your Home for Fall and Winter

The leaves are falling, the days are getting shorter, and the air is getting cooler... autumn has arrived! What does the change in seasons mean for your home, though? From raking leaves to cleaning the gutters, you want to make sure your home is primed and ready for the long winter ahead. Here are the top home maintenance tasks that homeowners should be completing this fall.

Outdoor Maintenance in the Fall

Make the most of the crisp, refreshing autumn weather by checking these tasks off your list:

- Clean and inspect all gutters and downspouts.
- Rake leaves from the yard. Shred them for use as mulch, compost them or dispose of them based on your city's requirements.
- Check your foundation for cracks and caulk around the spots where masonry meets siding, where pipes/wires enter the home and around windows and door frames.
- Check your roof and chimney for damage.
- Clean off all of your outdoor furniture, including cushions, and get everything into storage.
- Drain garden hoses and put them into storage.
- Turn off outdoor water valves to prevent freezing in colder weather.
- If you need to reseed your lawn, now is the time. Just make sure you don't disconnect your hose right away, because you'll need to regularly water the lawn after planting.

Indoor Maintenance in the Fall

During your next chilly, cloudy, fall day take your tasks indoors for a revamped version of spring cleaning:

- Have your furnace inspected by a professional.
- If you use a humidifier clean and inspect it. Bacteria and spores can crop up in a dirty water tank and you don't want that circulating through your home.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and change the batteries if needed.
- Check your windows and doors for any leaks. Install weather stripping where it's needed so that your home is heated as efficiently as possible.
- If you have single-pane glass for your windows you may want to re-think your window coverings. Additional curtains and special plastic designed to cover windows and keep heat in can make your home more comfortable while keeping your heating costs under control.
- Change the direction of your ceiling fan. This creates an upward draft that redistributes warm air from the ceiling, and is particularly effective for vaulted ceilings.
- If you use a wood stove for heating purposes, inspect it thoroughly. Check the stovepipes, and look out for any cracks or corrosion.



Pumpkin Dip Recipe

Ingredients

- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 (15 ounce) can solid pack pumpkin
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 teaspoon frozen orange juice concentrate

Directions

In a medium bowl, blend cream cheese and confectioners' sugar until smooth. Gradually mix in the pumpkin. Stir in the cinnamon, pumpkin pie spice, and orange juice until smooth and well blended. Chill until serving.

Recipe courtesy of allrecipes.com



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