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## Fall Checklist



- **Remove screens from casement windows**  
(This will allow more light into your home, and will also allow you to wipe down the windows if condensation builds up on them in the winter)
- **Make sure to open your blinds and or curtains**  
In the winter time, the blinds and curtains act as an insulator, and keep the warm air from your furnace from moving across your windows to help alleviate the condensation that may build up. It will also help heat your home from the sun that's allowed in and reduce help to reduce your energy bill.
- **Change the direction of your ceiling fans**  
As we all know, it's nice to have some air movement in the fall and winter. By switching the direction of the ceiling fan, you move the warm air from the ceiling down the outside walls, and help turn over the air in the house as well.
- **Have furnace checked & cleaned**  
It's a good practice to have a licensed professional come and check over your furnace and make sure everything is in good working order
- **Change or wash furnace filter**  
(This should be done at least 6x a year. If you have bad allergies, Electrostatic air filter's are available)
- **Change April-Aire filter**  
Filter's are available at Menard's or Home Depot. This filter should be changed 1x/year
- **Do NOT "wrap" you're a/c unit.**  
This can lead to increased corrosion, and create a nice home for little critters
- **Check the grade around your foundation**  
Make sure you have a positive slope away from your home. Most settling will occur in the first two years or so, but will continue over time depending on soil conditions in your area
- **Check sump pump to make sure it's operational**  
Also check to make sure any pipes your sump may discharge into to make sure they're clean as well.
- **Make sure to lube up your garage door**  
It's a good time before the snow flies to lube up your garage door. Make sure to use a silicone spray which are available at any hardware store.
- **Check your smoke alarm batteries**  
Even if your smoke alarms are hardwired, they have a battery back-up. If you haven't checked them in a while, you should, they could save your life!

- ☐ **Check your dryer vent to make sure it's clear/clean**  
Check outside to make sure it's clear of lint, and that no flaps are accidentally left open. If you have a flexible dryer vent that runs through your basement, make sure there is not any lint build-up or sags in the piping.
- ☐ **Disconnect hoses from "frost-free" outside faucets**  
If you have a hose connected to your "frost-free" faucet it will freeze. The dripping action that takes place allows the faucet to empty out and therefore becoming frost-free. With the hose connected it cannot drain properly.
- ☐ **Check gutters and downspouts**  
If you live near an area with trees, it's a good idea to check your gutters and down spouts now and in the coming weeks to make sure there are not any leaves collecting that may clog things up come spring.
- ☐ **Seal the grout in the tiled areas of your home**  
If you haven't done so already, it's a good time to seal the grout in the tiled areas of your home. This would be especially important in the back hall with winter coming up, but also your bathrooms or kitchens depending on the last time it was done. This should be done 1-2x/year depending on wear.
- ☐ **Check the filter in your garage floor drain**  
The floor drain in your garage has a filter in it that looks like a strainer. If you sweep out your garage a lot, things can get caught in there preventing the water from making it into the drain. It's easier to do it now, than this winter when the water isn't going down!
- ☐ **Cut lawn short**  
This will help to keep voles and mice from burrowing in your yard. The later you can do this the better.
- ☐ **Winterize your lawn**  
October is a great month to put Winterizer fertilizer on your lawn. It will help give it some strength going into winter, and also gives your lawn a nice boost come spring!
- ☐ **NO SALT ON YOUR DRIVEWAY!**  
Using salt on your driveway, no matter what it says will increase the chance of pitting and or flaking of your driveway or concrete walk. If possible, use Kitty litter or play sand, both will provide traction without wrecking your driveway. If you need to use salt for safety reasons, with kids or elderly, make sure to use the salt, and then get the ice off right away. The more freeze/thaw cycles that your concrete goes through in contact with the salt will only damage things further. Parking a car in the same spot on your driveway will also cause your driveway to pit or flake.

Now is a great time to plan for that finished basement you've been talking about, or the kitchen remodel that's been put off. Want to give your home décor a facelift? Need someone to help you talk to, negotiate on your behalf with insurance companies for your hail or wind damaged roofs or siding?

Give RUCON a call, or send us an email to see what we can do to help!



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