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Fall/Winter Home Maintenance Checklist

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By maintaining your home, you can help prevent costly damage and insurance claims that may eventually lead to higher premiums. Use this checklist to prepare your home for cooler weather.

Doors and windows

- ☐ Apply caulking and weather stripping around doors and windows
- ☐ Inspect storm doors and windows, checking for broken glass

Roof and gutters

- ☐ Clean out gutters and downspouts and repair any leaking seams
- ☐ Inspect and repair roof shingles and flashing to prevent water damage

Walls and foundation

- ☐ Seal cracks and leaks in foundation and walls
- ☐ Check attic or basement insulation for signs of moisture

Landscaping

- ☐ Trim back tree branches and brush
- ☐ Store firewood away from home to prevent infestations by termites and other insects

Heating and cooling

- ☐ Clean condenser coils and filters for window air conditioners and remove or cover units
- ☐ Have heating system inspected and cleaned
- ☐ Consider installing programmable thermostat to help reduce heating costs
- ☐ Clean or change furnace filters monthly
- ☐ Move flammable materials away from furnace, hot water heater, and other heat sources
- ☐ Have chimney inspected and cleaned, and make sure damper operates properly

Plumbing

- ☐ Test pressure valve on hot water heater and look for leaks
- ☐ Insulate pipes in unheated spaces such as basements, garages, and attics
- ☐ Disconnect garden hoses and shut off and drain exterior plumbing
- ☐ Make sure family members know how to shut off main water supply in an emergency

Appliances

- ☐ Check water hoses on washer, icemaker, and dishwasher for leaks
- ☐ Clean lint from the clothes dryer exhaust duct and surrounding area

Safety devices

- ❑ Install a carbon monoxide detector or test one you already own
- ❑ Test smoke detectors and fire extinguishers

Porches and decks

- ❑ Make sure railings are secure and that steps are in good repair
- ❑ Clean, cover, and store outdoor furniture

Pool

- ❑ Have pool professionally serviced and winterized
- ❑ Store chemicals properly, following manufacturer's instructions
- ❑ Install a pool safety cover to protect children and pets
- ❑ Make sure pool fence is in good repair and securely locked

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