



# Fall *Home Maintenance* Checklist



Take time now, before the temps start dropping and the snow starts flying, to ensure your home and appliances are running smoothly. With a goal of avoiding many costly repairs or being caught with a broken furnace when the weather is below freezing, here is a checklist of items to complete before the heating season begins.

## *OUTDOOR*

- ☐ Rake leaves and aerate the lawn
- ☐ Mend cracks/gaps in the driveway and walkways
- ☐ Drain and winterize exterior plumbing
- ☐ Drain and store hoses, and blow out in-ground sprinkler systems to remove all trapped water
- ☐ Wrap insulation around outdoor faucets and pipes in unheated garages
- ☐ Inspect exterior door hardware; fix squeaky handles and loose locks
- ☐ Repair or replace siding that is not firmly attached to the home
- ☐ Remove leaves and debris from gutters and downspouts. Repair any missing or damaged parts.
- ☐ Fall is a great time to plant perennials, trees, shrubs, and bulbs that will bloom in the spring
- ☐ Remove window screens and put on storm windows if you have them
- ☐ Service snow blower

## *INDOOR*

- ☐ Forced-air heating systems should be inspected and serviced by a professional
- ☐ Shut down A/C and cover window units
- ☐ Inspect chimney\*
- ☐ Seal cracks and gaps in windows and doors with caulk or weather stripping; replace if necessary
- ☐ Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and replace batteries

\*Fire safety experts recommend that you have your chimney inspected annually and cleaned periodically. This task should be completed before you start using your fireplace or furnace in the fall.