



Fall/Winter Home Prep Checklist

While Florida is known for mild and pleasant Fall and Winter seasons, it's still a great time to take care of a few things around the house! This guide will help you get your home and property clean, safe, and secure for the colder weather – easy as (pumpkin) pie!

- Care for trees and shrubs**
(Trim dead branches, fertilize, call an arborist if there is possible disease)
- Rake and mulch or compost Leaves**
- Aerate, seed, and fertilize lawn**
- Clean gutters and downspouts**
- Prepare yard equipment for storage**
(drain fuel from all gas operated equipment)
- Check foundation & siding for cracks and caulk/patch as needed**
- Check windows and doors for leaks and drafts and install weather stripping**
- Fill small holes and cover larger gaps with heavy-duty hardware cloth to keep critters out**
- Install a screen behind gable vents in attic**
- Make sure chimney is securely capped to keep wildlife out**
- Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; replace batteries if needed**
- Check expiration date on fire extinguisher and replace if needed**
- Test your home for presence of Radon and hire a licensed mitigation contractor if test returns levels of 4 or higher**
- Clean dryer vents**
- Schedule chimney cleaning and heating system maintenance**
- Change the direction of your ceiling fan**
- Deep-clean the kitchen**
 - Degrease the range hood and filter**
 - Clean the oven**
 - Vacuum the refrigerator coils**
 - Wash the garbage can and recycling bins**
 - Clean small appliances**
- Conduct an energy audit for recommended improvements**
(DIY audit at Energy.gov or hire a trained auditor)
- Protect your pipes from freezing**
 - Seal drafts that allow cold air / wind to reach unprotected pipes**
 - Insulate pipes with fiberglass or foam sleeves of up to 2"**
 - Use heating tape or cable**
Select UL-labeled products with a thermostat that turns heat on as necessary. Follow manufacturer instructions carefully.