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Essential End-of-Summer Home Preparation

A change in the seasons means a change in how homeowners treat their house and surrounding property. Each season presents unique challenges, and with summer's end rapidly approaching, [preparations for autumn](#) must be made. Many of these preparations are targeted to prevent any number of perils that winter may bring, which means you are taking care of two seasons with one home preparation checklist.

Check Your Safety Equipment

The change of seasons from summer to autumn, and to a greater extent winter, brings with it drastic drops in temperature. As a result, most families will find themselves lighting fires routinely, whether indoors or out. Because carbon monoxide is released when virtually any substance is burned, it is imperative that homeowners ensure their carbon monoxide detector is functional before autumn arrives. Not paying attention to this gas, virtually undetectable to the human sense, could have [great consequences](#).

In the same vein, the prevalence of in-home fires in the winter necessitates that the smoke detector has fresh batteries and functions properly. ABC News provides a [quiz](#) that is intended to alert homeowners to their own fire safety practices, and it is worth the time if you anticipate using the fireplace regularly during the cold months.

Get Some Cleaning In

If you thought cleaning was only for the springtime, think again! Before cold weather sets in, take a look around your yard and address any issues that have lingered since the beginning of the summer. If your shed is looking a little cluttered, get rid of a few unnecessary items so you can make room for that spiffy new [garden rake](#) or snow shovel. Also, if you have a garage, consider giving it a little of your undivided attention. Is that area looking particularly grungy? Consider [picking up](#) a backpack vacuum to help you navigate your garage with ease (and bend over a lot less!) while making it look fantastic before it's too cold to clean up any messes you left before over the summer. With its longer cords and larger capacity, it's a must-have item when you're dealing with an area that can get as dirty as a garage.

Save Yourself from Undue Hassle and Bills

While safety equipment such as fire and carbon monoxide detectors are of the utmost importance, preparation that may save you from massive bills and stressful mid-winter repairs is also critical in the end-of-summer home preparation process. Home Gather [recommends](#) checking infrequently visited spaces, such as attics and basements, in search of cracks and air leaks which could prove costly and even dangerous as the snow piles up and cold drafts intensify.

Make sure to replace air filters and to keep plenty on hand to ensure that your heater does not work harder than it needs to. In addition, sand and fill any holes in your walls, and conduct a thorough scan of doors and windows for any indication that seals to the outside are compromised. Lowe's provides [a handy guide](#) for the application of weather-stripping, which should be applied to all doors and window frames in which leaks are detected.

Those who live in harsh winter climates should prepare for the worst when it comes to their plumbing. Many a [helpful video](#) is available to provide hands-on instruction on how to apply antifreeze to pipes, a step that could prevent a disastrous leak during what is already the most miserable time of year.

It cannot be emphasized enough that the roof should not be neglected. In fact, any post-summer house prep list worth its salt will alert the reader to the necessity of inspecting and fixing a roof that may be prone to leaks. In addition, it is recommended that fresh paint be applied to the home where possible, as you will be in no mood to take care of this upgrade when the outdoor temperatures become arctic.

Psych Central [reminds us](#) that taking care of tasks proactively, instead of waiting until it is too late, has significant mental benefits, so don't neglect pre-autumn and winter house care until it is too late and far more stressful.

The thought of winter's bitter cold alone is enough to make one shiver. With that in mind, take a moment to consider the idea of conducting winter home maintenance at the peak of the cold season. It is distasteful, to say the least. For this reason, winter home prep must be taken care

of before autumn, especially considering the expansive array of considerations which must be weighed. From safety equipment to proactive maintenance on walls, windows, doors, and the roof, nothing can be overlooked when it comes to prepping for the frigid months of the calendar year.