



HANDYMAN

Reliable property maintenance for busy homeowners

Fall Home Maintenance Checklist: Stay Ahead of Common Fall and Winter Issues



About ↗

Fixhouz

FixHouz is your one-call solution in Metro West and Boston area for a wide range of home maintenance and repair needs. Our technicians are fully insured professionals. We arrive on time and with the right tools to complete the job right.





Smart homeowners know that routine maintenance isn't just another expense—it's a strategic investment in their property. By staying ahead of repairs, you prevent costly issues, protect your home's value, and enjoy greater peace of mind year-round.



Fall is the perfect time for homeowners to prepare their property for colder weather and prevent costly winter damage. As temperatures drop, systems like heating, insulation, and drainage become critical to maintaining comfort and safety. Performing seasonal maintenance now helps extend the life of your home's components and ensures everything works efficiently when you need it most. This guided checklist walks you through the most important tasks to inspect, test, and tune up before winter arrives.

1. Inspect and Clean Your Gutters & Downspouts

Clogged gutters can cause water backup, roof leaks, and foundation damage when freezing temperatures hit.

- ❑ REMOVE LEAVES, TWIGS, AND DEBRIS.
- ❑ ENSURE DOWNSPOUTS DIRECT WATER AT LEAST 5 FT AWAY FROM THE FOUNDATION.
- ❑ LOOK FOR SAGGING, CRACKS, OR GAPS IN GUTTER JOINTS.
- ❑ TEST WATER FLOW WITH A HOSE AFTER CLEANING.



2. Examine the Roof for Damage

Your roof is the first line of defense against snow and ice, shielding your home from moisture infiltration and structural stress. A thorough fall inspection helps catch small issues—like loose shingles or worn flashing—before winter conditions worsen them and lead to costly repairs.

- ❑ MISSING, CRACKED, CURLING, OR LOOSE SHINGLES.
- ❑ AREAS WHERE GRANULES HAVE WORN OFF (LOOK IN GUTTERS).
- ❑ FLASHING AROUND CHIMNEYS, SKYLIGHTS, AND VENTS FOR GAPS.
- ❑ MOSS, ALGAE, OR SOFT SPOTS INDICATING MOISTURE ISSUES.



3. Service Your Heating System

A well-maintained heating system runs more efficiently and safely. Regular seasonal checks also help prevent unexpected breakdowns during the coldest months when you rely on it most.

- ❑ REPLACE FURNACE FILTERS (MONTHLY DURING HEAVY USE).
- ❑ LISTEN FOR UNUSUAL NOISES WHEN THE SYSTEM STARTS.
- ❑ TEST THERMOSTAT ACCURACY AND HEATING RESPONSE.
- ❑ SCHEDULE A PROFESSIONAL TUNE-UP IF IT'S BEEN 12 MONTHS OR MORE.



4. **Inspect** Weatherstripping **and** Exterior Caulking

Weatherstripping and caulking prevent heat loss and reduce heating bills by sealing gaps. They also help keep out drafts, moisture, and pests, making your home more comfortable and energy-efficient throughout the colder months.

- ☐ CRACKED OR MISSING CAULK AROUND WINDOWS, DOORS, AND SIDING JOINTS.
- ☐ GAPS UNDER EXTERIOR DOORS—REPLACE DOOR SWEEPS IF NEEDED.
- ☐ LIGHT PASSING THROUGH WINDOW OR DOOR EDGES INDICATES AIR LEAKS.
- ☐ TEST WITH A CANDLE OR INCENSE STICK FOR AIR DRAFTS.



5. Prepare Outdoor Faucets & Irrigation Systems

Frozen pipes can burst and cause major water damage. Taking preventative steps in the fall ensures your plumbing is protected before temperatures drop to dangerous levels.

- ☐ DRAIN OUTDOOR HOSES AND STORE THEM INDOORS.
- ☐ SHUT OFF IRRIGATION AND OUTDOOR FAUCET SUPPLY VALVES.
- ☐ ATTACH FAUCET COVERS AFTER SHUTTING OFF.
- ☐ CHECK FOR VISIBLE LEAKS OR CORROSION ON EXPOSED PIPING.



6. Clean and Inspect the Fireplace & Chimney

Ensuring proper ventilation prevents chimney fires and smoke issues. It also helps your fireplace burn more efficiently, improving heat output while keeping harmful gases safely vented from your home.

- ☐ REMOVE ASH BUILDUP FROM THE FIREBOX.
- ☐ INSPECT FOR CRACKS, LOOSE BRICKS, OR MISSING MORTAR.
- ☐ CHECK THE DAMPER FOR SMOOTH OPERATION.
- ☐ HAVE A CHIMNEY SWEEP REMOVE CREOSOTE ANNUALLY IF YOU BURN WOOD.



7. Test Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Winter heating increases risk of CO buildup—testing is essential. Regular checks ensure alarms function properly and provide early warning to keep your household safe from invisible, odorless gases.

- ☐ PRESS "TEST" BUTTONS ON ALL ALARMS.
- ☐ REPLACE BATTERIES (EVEN IF THEY STILL WORK).
- ☐ ENSURE DEVICES ARE NOT OVER 10 YEARS OLD (REPLACE IF NEEDED).
- ☐ CONFIRM ALARMS ARE INSTALLED NEAR SLEEPING AREAS AND ON EVERY LEVEL.



8. **Inspect** Attic Insulation and Ventilation

Proper insulation keeps warmth inside and prevents ice dams. It also improves overall energy efficiency, helping your heating system run less often while maintaining a more consistent indoor temperature.

- ❑ LOOK FOR UNEVEN OR COMPRESSED INSULATION.
- ❑ CHECK FOR SIGNS OF MOISTURE OR MOLD.
- ❑ ENSURE ATTIC VENTS (SOFFIT, RIDGE, GABLE) ARE NOT BLOCKED.
- ❑ VERIFY AT LEAST 12-15 INCHES OF INSULATION DEPTH WHERE APPLICABLE.



9. Winterize Outdoor Tools

Preparing equipment now extends its lifespan. It also ensures everything is ready to perform reliably when winter tasks and changing weather conditions demand it.

- ❑ CLEAN AND STORE LAWNMOWER; RUN FUEL STABILIZER THROUGH THE TANK.
- ❑ SHARPEN OR REPLACE MOWER BLADES AND TRIMMER LINES.
- ❑ INSPECT SNOWBLOWER—TEST START IT BEFORE FIRST SNOWFALL.
- ❑ OIL GARDEN HAND TOOLS TO PREVENT RUST.





10. Check Exterior Paint, Siding & Foundation

Catch small issues before winter weather makes them worse. Addressing these early helps prevent costly structural damage and preserves the long-term integrity of your home's exterior.

- ❑ CRACKED, PEELING, OR FADING PAINT (TOUCH-UP TO PROTECT WOOD).
- ❑ GAPS IN SIDING OR LOOSE BOARDS.
- ❑ HAIRLINE FOUNDATION CRACKS—MONITOR OR SEAL DEPENDING ON SEVERITY.
- ❑ WATER POOLING NEAR FOUNDATION AFTER RAIN (IMPROVE DRAINAGE).





Fall maintenance pays off

Taking the time to go through this fall home maintenance checklist will not only help keep your Metro West and Boston home in great condition, but it will also save you money on costly repairs in the long run. Whether you handle these tasks yourself or hire professionals, staying proactive ensures your home is safe, efficient, and ready for the winter months ahead. So grab your checklist and get started—fall is here!

By choosing **FixHouz Handyman Metro West**, you ensure that your fall check is handled expertly, efficiently, and ethically, with a focus on long-term sustainability and customer satisfaction. Call us today **617.444.3210** and let us take care of your spring maintenance needs so you can focus on enjoying your home without worry.



CONTACT + US

We look forward to meeting you soon.



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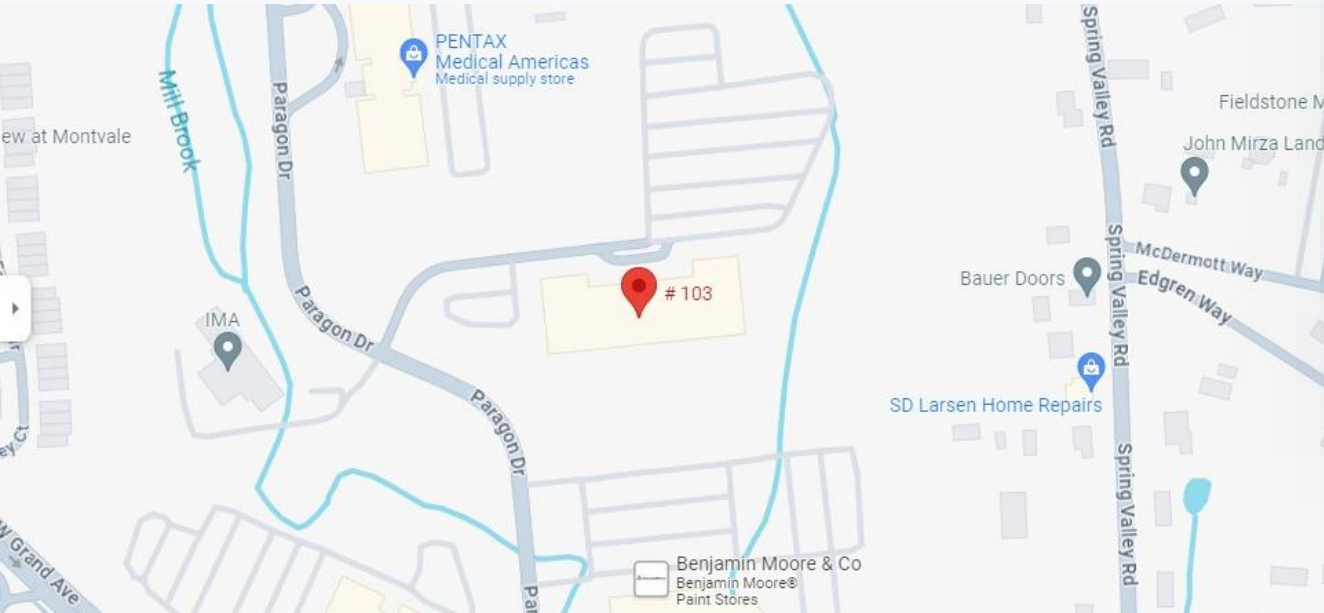
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THANK YOU ↗

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Thank you for considering FixHouz as your trusted property maintenance partner. We appreciate the opportunity to earn your confidence and look forward to helping you simplify repairs, and protect the value of your property.

MAINTENANCE