



YOUR VIP IN HOME INSPECTION

(518) 961-3082 [www.staringsvip.com](http://www.staringsvip.com)

# FALL MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST



**Fall is here and its time to get your home ready for the colder months ahead. So while you are out decorating your home with pumpkins and pilgrims you can also do some of the following steps to help save you money, as well as, keep your biggest investment well maintained.**

## **Inspect your Roof:**

- Check the roof for missing, worn, torn, cracked, and curled shingles. Be sure to make repairs now if needed to prevent further damage.
- Check roof underside for water stains, leaks, and dampness. If found find a professional to evaluate and repair.

## **Clean & Repair Gutters:**

All too often this is a neglected task and it truly should not be ignored. Dirty, clogged gutters should be cleaned by simply removing all debris so that water can drain properly. If there are any areas where there is sagging, leaking at seams, or disconnected drains you should have repaired. Be sure downspouts direct water away from the foundation.

- Properly working gutters help prevent a lot of possible issues with the foundation, structure, and landscape, which in turn will help save you money.

## Seal up Cracks and Gaps:

- Check glazing putty on windows and check caulking for decay around doors, windows, corner boards, and joints.
- Exterior openings including electrical outlets, phone lines, outside faucets, cable lines and heating & cooling units.
- Look around masonry joints, or places where vents and other objects protrude from walls.

## Drain exterior water lines:

- Drain hose bibs, sprinklers, pool equipment etc.
- Check insulation wrapping on all water lines and drains exposed to weather.

## Heating Systems:

- Replace the filter in your furnace.
- Consider having a heating professional check your heating system to ensure optimal performance and discover minor problems before they turn into costly major repairs.
- Clean your ducts to better your heating system's efficiency as well as to reduce household dust and to provide relief to those with respiratory problems.

## Inspect and Clean Chimney:

If a chimney is used regularly, it must be cleaned before it can be inspected. Having your chimney inspected when it is swept is always a good idea as the additional cost is minimal and the benefits can be substantial. The most important reasons for cleaning and inspecting your chimney are safety and efficiency.

- Check for exterior staining that is indicative of flue gasses seeping through the chimney structure.
- Check the chimney cap to insure it is secure and not damaged or deteriorated.
- Check the flue for creosote build-up.
- Check the flue for blockage due to debris or animal nests.

## Apply Weather Stripping:

Apply weather stripping at joints where two surfaces meet, such as doors and windows to give an airtight seal. There are different types of weather stripping and each has benefits and drawbacks. Determine which is correct for your needs and once you have you will then follow the instructions that came with it for proper application.

Tape – Lasts about a year and should be used on windows or doors that will not be opened. Tends to dry and loosen within one season.

Felt – Lasts about 1-2 years and should be used on the top or side of doors and window frames for sealing gaps.

Foam – Lasts about 1-2 years and should be used on the bottom of window sashes or around frame of a warped or loose fitting door.

Tubular gasket and vinyl tubing – Lasts around 5 years and can be used on windows or doors.

## Walls and Siding:

Clean the siding and look for any cracks or separations. Pay special attention to places where wood meets masonry. Reseal with caulk. If the paint is blistering, peeling or chalking, touch up minor problems or contact a contractor for help.

**We, at Staring's Visual Inspection Professionals, hope that this checklist helps you out with preparing for the colder months, and that you have a wonderful holiday season. Feel free to contact with any questions or comments.**

Thank you,

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