

FALL IS HERE!

And winter's around the corner



FALL HOME MAINTENANCE AND THE VALUE ADDED

For many of us, the beauty of fall helps with the transition to the inevitable arrival of another cold snowy inter. Whether you are someone who shuns winter or embraces it there's no denying it is quickly approaching. During the winter months with cold temperatures outside and our heated interiors there can be a variety of issues that come up, from frozen pipes that burst to dryer vent fires.

Taking the time to prepare your home for winter by completing the winter home maintenance checklist can help prevent cold-weather damage, keep you warm, and can lower your energy bills.

Did you know?

- Unlike summer months when you can get away with changing your furnace filters every 3 months, during the winter filters should be changed monthly.
- During the winter, homes may have higher radon levels because we tend to keep our homes closed up. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. You can purchase a radon test kit yourself.

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MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

To avoid winter despair it's time to take preventive measures. Give your home the once over before the frost settles in and make sure you have gotten your exterior ready for Old Man Winter. Then you can move indoors and on to the interior tasks.

INTERIOR

- **REMOVE WINDOW SCREENS**
removing window screens for the winter is done to minimize the moisture buildup that can happen from heat which can lead to mould
- **CLEAN DRYER VENTS**
lint buildup in dryer vents can make your dryer work less efficiently and may cause fire; increased static electricity can ignite lint that has built up so it's a good time to get the lint out
- **CHECK SEALS**
look at your door seals to make sure you cannot see daylight and you can also take spray foam insulation to fill around drafty outlets and or light switches
- **CHANGE YOUR FURNACE FILTER**
replace your furnace filters; proper ventilation is key during the winter months so you should change filters monthly during winter

EXTERIOR

- **DRAIN HOSES**
store hoses away for winter and be sure to turn off exterior faucets and drain the standing water to prevent pipes from bursting
- **CHECK THE CHIMNEY**
wood burning fireplaces should be professionally cleaned as creosote buildups could possibly lead to a chimney fire
- **STORE SUMMER THINGS INDOORS**
prevent outdoor furniture, ornaments, birdhouses from freezing and thawing out once spring comes again by bringing them indoors or inside a shed.
- **HANG LIGHTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS**
when hanging your lights, do double duty and while your up, check your eavestroughs
- **PREPARE YOUR LAWN FOR WINTER**
before the first snowfall, apply fertilizer and winterizer to your lawn to ensure grass growth come Springtime
- **PLAN FOR SNOW**
check your snowblower is serviced and ready for snow; make sure your shovels, et., are within reach of your doors so they're easier to grab when you need them



Direct: (613) 791-5478 Office: (613) 692-2555

dhostettler@royalpage.ca
www.dianehostettler.com



Since 2004 I have been passionate about what I do... and remain committed to serving you!