

Fall & Winter Home Prep Checklist



- ❑ **Clean gutters.** Remove leaves and debris to reduce clogs that cause back-ups and an overflow of water up against the walls and foundation, causing mold and water damage.
- ❑ **Drain outdoor faucets completely.** Drain faucets and put away hoses to prevent cracks as freezing temperatures enter the area. It only takes about 4 hours of freezing temps to crack a pipe.
- ❑ **Check downspouts.** Ensure downspouts are away from the base of the home. They should also be obstruction-free.
- ❑ **Winterize your sprinkler system.** Blow out all the water using high-pressure air. Freezing and expanding water could result in cracks that lead to a water disaster next spring.
- ❑ **Inspect the roof and siding for cracks.** Ensure summer storms didn't cause damage that could lead to leakage this winter. Make repairs before it gets too cold.
- ❑ **Insulate your pipes.** Use insulation or temperature-regulating tape to protect pipes in unheated garages and up against cold basement or outdoor walls.
- ❑ **Drain cleaning.** As the holidays approach, ensure indoor drains and plumbing can handle extra water and sewer usage from guests. To find out if your plumbing is in good shape all the way to the street, schedule a drain cleaning to lessen the chance of a holiday emergency.
- ❑ **Insulate your septic tank.** Protect your septic tank and drainage field from the frozen ground. Allow grass to grow around the system or spread leaves or straw over the drain field to effectively retain snow. You can also purchase insulated blankets.
- ❑ **Test your sump pump.** This is not necessarily related to a specific change in season, but it's good practice to regularly check its function. You don't want to find out the hard way that it's not working when heavy spring rains come.