



# Barkee@Home

## November Newsletter



### Fall Home Maintenance Tips

We hope you enjoyed your summer as much as we did, but now it's time to get to those fall home maintenance projects. A well maintained home is much less likely to experience emergencies, and cause family injuries, than one that's cluttered or rundown. Consider these fall maintenance tips:

#### Safety Equipment

- Monthly check fire extinguishers - Make sure pressure is at proper levels.
- Monthly test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors - Press test button and listen for alarm.
- Practice fire drill - Involve children in mapping escape routes.
- Replenish survival pantry.

#### Plumbing System

- Test Sump Pump - Pour water into sump pit to make sure float and switch respond.
- Protect outdoor faucets from freezing – Unless faucet is freeze-proof type, it must be drained or isolated.

#### Heating and Air Conditioning Systems

- Clean or replace air filters - Clogged furnace or air conditioning filter will reduce systems efficiency and degrade indoor air quality.
- Heat pump and central air conditioning systems only - Cut grass and other foliage away from outdoor unit.
- Cover or remove unit for winter – Room air conditioners only.

#### General Maintenance

- Inspect for termites and carpenter ants.
- Clean vegetation off roof – Cut away vines and branches. Sweep off pine needles with broom. Use power sprayer to remove moss, lichen, or fungus from wooden shingles (not asphalt shingles).
- Clean and repair rain gutters and downspouts.
- Clean out window wells and cellarways – Leaves, grass clippings, and fallen sticks in window wells and cellarways will clog drains and attract insects.
- Replace worn weather-stripping – Worn weather-stripping will let warm air out and cold air into house.
- Recaulk windows, doors, and siding – Splits and gaps in old caulking let water and cold air into house.

Source: The Family Handyman, The Do-It-Yourself Guide to Home Emergencies, by Don Best.

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We hope you are enjoying these newsletters. We pass on home maintenance tips, safety ideas, information on product recalls, etc., of interest to families and homeowners. **Just another way we are striving to be your homeownership partner.**

For additional home maintenance tips, as well as other helpful homeowner Internet links, please visit our Web site at:

[www.BarkeeInspect.com](http://www.BarkeeInspect.com)

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