

# Fall into Festive: Ready Your Home for Autumn and Beyond

Neighborly® is a local network of home service brands that will connect you to specific, vetted local experts. Our service professionals work with rigorous quality standards to repair, maintain, and enhance your home. The changing seasons bring excitement and important seasonal maintenance tasks that can get forgotten. With the weather starting to cool, Neighborly's brands can help you get your home ready for fall.

Do you need assistance with any of the home maintenance items on your list? We're here to help. Visit [neighborly.com](https://www.neighborly.com) or download the Neighborly App to explore our services and connect with a local Neighborly pro.

## REPAIR

### Inspect and Clean Your Sump Pump

Late fall and winter can bring their fair share of ice and snow. Your sump pump might have to work extra hard to keep the melted snow and ice from damaging your basement. Get an annual sump pump inspection and cleaning to avoid unnecessary problems.

### Check Your Heating System

If your house has a heating system, schedule a maintenance check to make sure it is running properly for the coming season. Have your filters replaced to ensure that the warm air being pumped into your home isn't spreading dust that will irritate you and your family.



### Keep the Cool Air Outside

Insulating your garage door can help you save on electricity and gas bills, especially if your garage is attached to your home. An insulated garage provides the added benefit of creating extra space for a potential home gym or office.

### Reset the Direction of Your Ceiling Fans

Switching a ceiling fan's rotational direction alters the flow of air within a room. Clockwise winter rotation at low speeds will gently push warm air near the ceiling back down from where it has risen to warm occupied areas when temperatures dip.

### Clean Your Oven Ahead of Holiday Cooking

Are you expecting your oven to work overtime this holiday season? Make sure to clean it ahead of time, including the burners, racks, and base. If you have a gas oven, make sure the igniter is working properly and quickly.

## MAINTAIN

### Clean and Cover Patio Furniture

Inclement weather can do a number on your outdoor furnishings, so wipe them down and store them this fall. Move any chair cushions inside and secure the remaining pieces under an outdoor furniture cover or tarp.

### Prepare Your Outdoor Space

Remove leaves from your yard so light and air can reach the grass and use garden waste to create a compost pile. A layer of mulch in your garden beds can help regular soil temperature, retain moisture, and prevent weeds.

### Inspect Your Home for Concerns

Check the insulation in your attic and walls for gaps, damage, or signs of wear. Proper insulation helps keep your home warm and energy efficient. Additionally, inspect and repair cracks in your driveway and walkways to prevent further damage from freezing and thawing.



### Clear Your Gutters

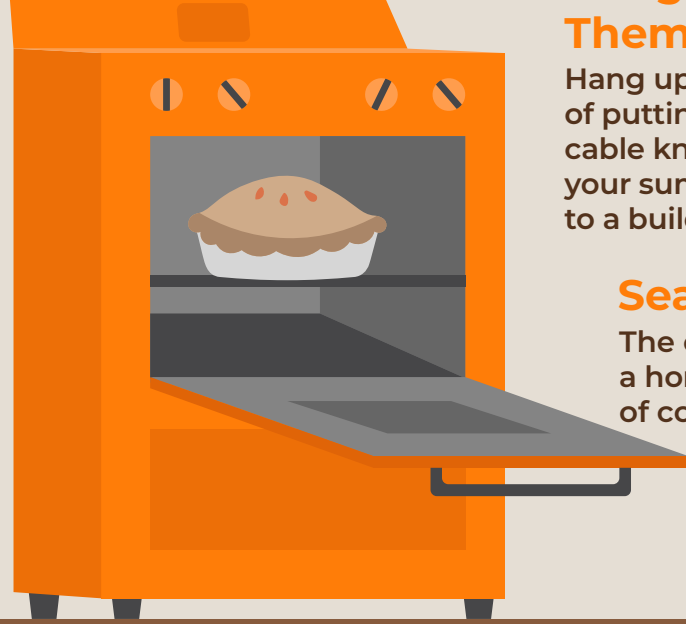
Clean and clear your gutters in the fall, as this is a time where there will be the most leaves and debris to remove. By doing the cleaning now, there is less chance of blockage in the winter when it can freeze and crack the trough.

### Hang Sweaters Instead of Tossing Them in the Dryer

Hang up heavier clothing and items to dry instead of putting them into the dryer. A cozy comforter or cable knit sweater will produce way more lint than your summer sheets and tees, contributing greatly to a build-up of lint and debris.

### Seal Entryways for Pests

The change of weather is a common trigger for a home invasion by pests. Track down any drafts of cold air or cracks in your home's walls that might serve as an entry point for pests. Sealing, screening, and caulking every crack and crevice in your home can help ensure pests stay outside.



## ENHANCE

### Paint Your Windows with Pumpkins

Painting your window glass with interior water-based acrylic paint or washable tempera paint this fall is festive and fun! Before you begin, clean glass surfaces and mask-off areas such as mullions (glass dividers) and the trim or sill with painters' tape and masking paper.

### Inspect Your Windows

Seal any gaps or cracks in your windows to prevent cold air from entering and warm air from escaping. Consider applying window insulation film, installing double-pane windows, or hanging thick curtains or drapes to create an additional barrier against cold drafts.

### Decorate Your Yard for Fall

If you enjoy decorating, fill flower pots with a cornucopia of fall squash and foliage, place haystack bundles in the yard, and hang orange holiday lights with some Halloween décor that can easily be removed after trick or treating is over.

### Declutter Your Home Spaces

Is your garage currently a jumbled mess of sports equipment, camping gear, and all the other stuff that got hauled out over the summer? You'll feel better with everything neatly organized and stored away for the cold season, and it'll be a lot easier to access the stuff you do need in winter.

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