

Get your home ready for winter

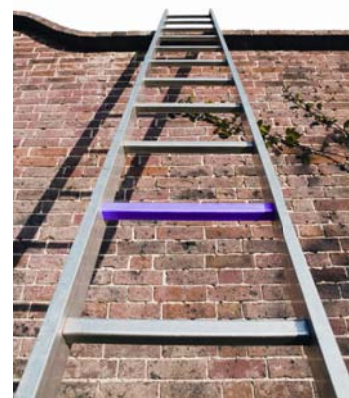
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Indoor and outdoor home fall maintenance tips

The kids are back to school and autumn is in the air. Now is the ideal time to conduct some needed regular maintenance inside and outside your home as you prepare for winter.

To start, be sure to have your furnace or heating system serviced by a qualified service company. You wouldn't want to have to deal with a breakdown in the dead of winter because you put off a regular maintenance check. If your home is equipped with electrical heating, vacuum the baseboard heaters to remove dust and debris that could pose a fire hazard.

It is recommended that a qualified technician perform a regular maintenance check on your air conditioner (checking fans, coils and fins) in order for it to function effectively and efficiently when it is needed. It is also important to cover your air conditioner to protect it from the harsh weather conditions and debris.



Check the sump pump and line to ensure proper operation, and to determine that there are no obstructions or visible leaks.

Ensure all doors to the outside shut tightly, and check other doors for ease of use. Renew door weatherstripping if required.

If there is a door between your house and the garage, check the adjustment of the self-closing device to ensure it closes the door completely.

Clean leaves from your eavestroughs and roof, and test downspouts to ensure there is proper drainage from the roof. Check your chimney for possible obstructions, such as bird nests.

Remember to drain and store your outdoor hoses. Close the valve to your outdoor house connection and drain the exterior faucet to ensure no water is remaining.

Finally, you should winterize your landscaping. For example, store outdoor furniture, prepare gardens and, if necessary, protect young trees or bushes for the harsh winter weather.

As the days get shorter, knowing that your home is now ready for winter will let you rest easy and enjoy all that fall has to offer!

For more information, visit our website at www.johnson.ca.