

Yeary's Home Maintenance Tips

FALL

- Close and drain hose bibs, drain and store hoses.
- Trim all bushes, shrubs and trees to leave a foot of clear space between foliage and house.
- Rake debris away from side of house and other structures.
- Clean gutters and downspouts, repair as needed.
- Check roof and roof penetrations for leaks.
- Trim tree branches near or touching roof or gutters.
- Check all exterior caulk, repair as needed.
- Examine weather-stripping, replace as needed.
- Clear storm window and brick weep holes of debris.
- Clean out under decks and porches if present.
- Check septic field and tank area for flooding or odor if present.
- Fertilize lawn.
- Clean around air conditioner compressor.
- Fill any cracks in driveway and sidewalks.
- Winterize lawn mower and clean yard and garden tools.
- Have fireplace and flues inspected and cleaned, repair as needed.
- Schedule heating system tune-up and cleaning.

WINTER

- Clean faucet aerators and showerheads.
- Clean refrigerator drain pan and vacuum condenser coil.
- Clean kitchen exhaust fan filters and vacuum bathroom vent fan covers.
- Clean dishwasher food filters and check that openings in spray arms are clear.
- Examine caulk and grout in shower, repair as needed.
- Clean and seal grout.
- Exercise circuit breakers and show family where they are and how to operate.
- Test relief valve on water heater (Note: If you haven't done this before, be prepared for the valve to stick in the open position).
- Vacuum smoke detectors, heating registers, vents, ducts, and radiators.
- Clean out dryer vent duct.
- Check the gauges on all fire extinguishers and recharge or replace if necessary.
- Check fire escape routes, door and window locks, and outside lighting.
- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and always keep water in live Christmas tree stands.

