THE PHINNEY SEASONAL CHECKLIST

Preparing Your Home for Winter

A few thoughtful steps this season can spare you costly repairs once the cold settles in.

Your home is likely among your most significant investments, and steady seasonal care is one of the simplest ways to protect it. Here is where we suggest you begin.

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PHINNEY REAL ESTATE, BROKERAGE

phinneyrealestate.com
905.466.8888

THE ESSENTIALS

Prepare and Protect

01 Seal Windows and Doors

Look for drafts and gaps. Renew worn weatherstripping and caulk any openings to keep warmth in and heating costs down.

02 Prepare the Furnace

Change the filter about every three months, or as the manufacturer advises, and book an inspection before the first deep freeze. Regular service keeps your system efficient and reliable.

03 Fireplaces and Smoke Alarms

Have chimneys and vents cleaned and inspected before lighting the first fire. Test every smoke alarm, replace batteries as needed and note expiry dates.

Smoke alarms belong on every level of the home and in all required locations.

04 Carbon Monoxide Detectors

With heating season underway, confirm each detector works, refresh batteries and check expiry dates. It is a small task that does a great deal for your household's safety.

05 Clear the Gutters

Remove leaves and debris so water drains freely, protecting your roof and foundation from water damage and ice. Trim overhanging branches while you are at it.

Call a professional for any work that involves climbing or heights.

06 Protect Outdoor Faucets and Pipes

Before the first freeze, disconnect and drain garden hoses and shut off exterior water lines where applicable. Insulate exposed pipes in garages, basements and other unheated spaces.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Care and Habit

07 Tidy the Grounds

Keep leaves clear of drains, downspouts, vents and walkways. Those in garden beds can stay, offering natural cover for plants and local wildlife.

08 Reverse Ceiling Fans

Set the blades to turn clockwise on low to bring warm air down from the ceiling.

09 Make It a Seasonal Ritual

A brief check of heating and cooling, plumbing, roof, gutters and safety equipment each season prevents most surprises. A simple schedule or phone reminder keeps it effortless.

BEFORE WINTER

At a Glance

ON YOUR OWN

- Windows and doors
- Furnace filter
- Smoke and CO detectors
- Hoses and outdoor faucets
- Outdoor furniture and equipment
- Ceiling fans

WITH A PROFESSIONAL

- Furnace inspection
- Chimney cleaning
- Roof and attic, as needed

EITHER

- Gutters

A FINAL WORD

A little care goes a long way.

There is no need to tackle everything at once. A few steps taken now save time, money and stress through the winter.

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