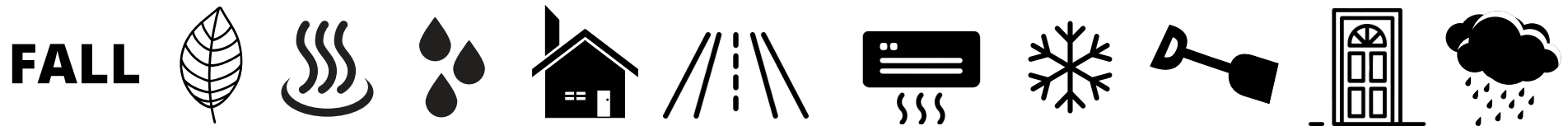




**FALL IS AN IN-BETWEEN SEASON WHERE YOU'RE FINISHING UP YOUR SUMMER HOME MAINTENANCE TASKS AS WELL AS GETTING YOUR HOME READY FOR WINTER. COLD, SNOW, AND RAIN CAN DO A NUMBER TO A HOME, SO YOU DON'T WANT TO IGNORE WINTER PREPARATION.**



- 1 FLUSH HOT WATER HEATER AND REMOVE SEDIMENT.** THIS PROLONGS THE LIFE OF THE HEATER AND HELPS WITH EFFICIENCY AS WELL.
- 2 WINTERIZE AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS.** REMOVE AND STORE WINDOW UNITS. IF YOU HAVE CENTRAL AIR, COVER THE OUTSIDE UNIT WITH A TARP OR PLASTIC SHEETING AND SECURE IT WITH BUNGEE CORDS.
- 3 GET THE HEATING SYSTEM READY FOR WINTER.** CHECK FOR ANY LEAKS IN WINDOWS OR DOORS; THESE CAN COST AN ARM AND A LEG. MAKE SURE HEATING VENTS ARE OPEN AND NOT BLOCKED BY FURNITURE. GET FURNACE SERVICED/INSPECTED AT LEAST EVERY OTHER YEAR, PREFERABLY ANNUALLY. AS WITH THE AC, THIS SHOULDN'T BE A HUGE EXPENSE. DON'T FORGET ABOUT FIREPLACES IF YOU HAVE THEM.
- 4 TURN OFF AND FLUSH OUTDOOR WATER FAUCETS.** ALSO, FLUSH HOSES AND STORE THEM. WINTERIZE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS AS WELL, IF YOU HAVE ONE.
- 5 GET THE CHIMNEY CLEANED,** IF YOU HAVE ONE. SOME FOLKS SAY TO DO THIS IN THE SPRING, SOME SAY FALL. EITHER WAY, JUST MAKE SURE IT'S DONE ONCE PER YEAR.
- 6 TEST SUMP PUMP.** YOU DON'T WANT TO WAIT UNTIL YOU NEED YOUR SUMP PUMP TO FIND OUT IT'S NOT WORKING.
- 7 CHECK DRIVEWAY/PAVEMENT FOR CRACKS.** MAKE SURE TO HAVE RE-SEALED BEFORE WINTER; WATER CAN FREEZE AND EXPAND IN THE CRACKS, CAUSING MORE DAMAGE
- 8 BUY WINTER GEAR.** HAVE SIDEWALK SALT, GOOD SHOVELS, ETC. READY FOR WINTER. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN THAT FIRST SNOW WILL COME!