



**THOMPSON  
REMODELING, INC.**

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(616) 942-1866 • Fax (616) 942-8270  
[www.ThompsonRemodeling.com](http://www.ThompsonRemodeling.com)

## The 8 Hr Fall Home Maintenance Checklist

It's getting colder and we need to prepare in order to prevent damage that could cost you needlessly with a little bit of preventative home maintenance. This process will take you about 8 hours.

### Heating Systems

- Buy a case of filters (comes w/ 12) and replace your filter now and each month.
- Have your system tuned up for its best performance to reveal hidden problems. (1-3yrs)
- Have your ducts cleaned...it cuts down on dust. If you have allergies, this could save you aggravation & extra trips to your doctors & pharmacy. (5 yrs)

### Plumbing

- Know where the main water shut-off valve is just in case you have frozen pipes or when you leave home for more than a few days.
- Un-hook and store your garden hoses.

### Fireplace & Chimneys

- Check your chimney flue to be sure the seal is tight when it's closed.
- Check your flashings & the concrete chimney cap.
- Call a professional chimney sweep. Have them do the inspections, cleaning, and repairs. This is critical when you have a wood-burning fireplace.

### Insulation & Attic Ventilation

- Check that ridge vents & eaves are clear of branches, leaves & debris.
- See if "critters" have access to your home and stop 'em. Cans of caulk & spray foam are a homeowners friend. If animals can get in, you know that cold air definitely is.
- Be sure your vents (lower and upper) are not covered with insulation. Ice dams on your roof are often caused by poorly performing insulation & improper ventilation in the attic.

### Windows & Doors

- Walk around the entire house and close & latch every window. If you see light around the window or door then it needs to be addressed. Clean & change your screens to storm windows & store them well. If they're covered...you prevent dust accumulating on them.
- Check your weather stripping & caulk around windows & doors to lower your heating costs and prevent drafts.



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## **Gutters & Downspouts**

- ❑ Be sure gutters & downspouts are clear of leaves & other debris. The snow melts, gets caught in clogged gutters, your fascias can get wood rot which invites the insects that eat & destroy wood, not to mention, ice dams and ruined gutters.
- ❑ Check all support brackets to verify they are properly attached.
- ❑ Verify the water from your gutters drains properly away from your foundation and doesn't pool. You don't want added risk of damage to your foundation, driveway or sidewalks not to mention the people walking on them.

## **Landscaping & Yard work**

- ❑ Saturday after the Thompson Remodeling Home Improvement Show (8-9am) stay tuned to the Flowerland Show (9-11am). Your yard needs to be tucked in for its long winter nap too!
- ❑ Stake the driveway for the snowplow.

## **Housekeeping**

- ❑ Deep clean the house with the change of the season.
- ❑ Put away all yard furniture
- ❑ Make your "Honey Do" list of BIG and small projects you need Thompson Remodeling to handle for you. If you'd feel more comfortable judging someone else, do the same at your friend's house.

All the best to you as you prepare your home for winter from Pat, Sandie & Ben Thompson of the Thompson Remodeling Home Improvement Show on Newsradio WOOD 1300.

Warmly,

Ben Thompson, CGR GCP  
President, Thompson Remodeling  
Co-host, Thompson Remodeling Home Improvement Show