

HOME MAINTENANCE MADE EASY

A home is the largest investment that most people will make in their lives. Make sure that it stays in tip-top shape by staying on top of its maintenance.



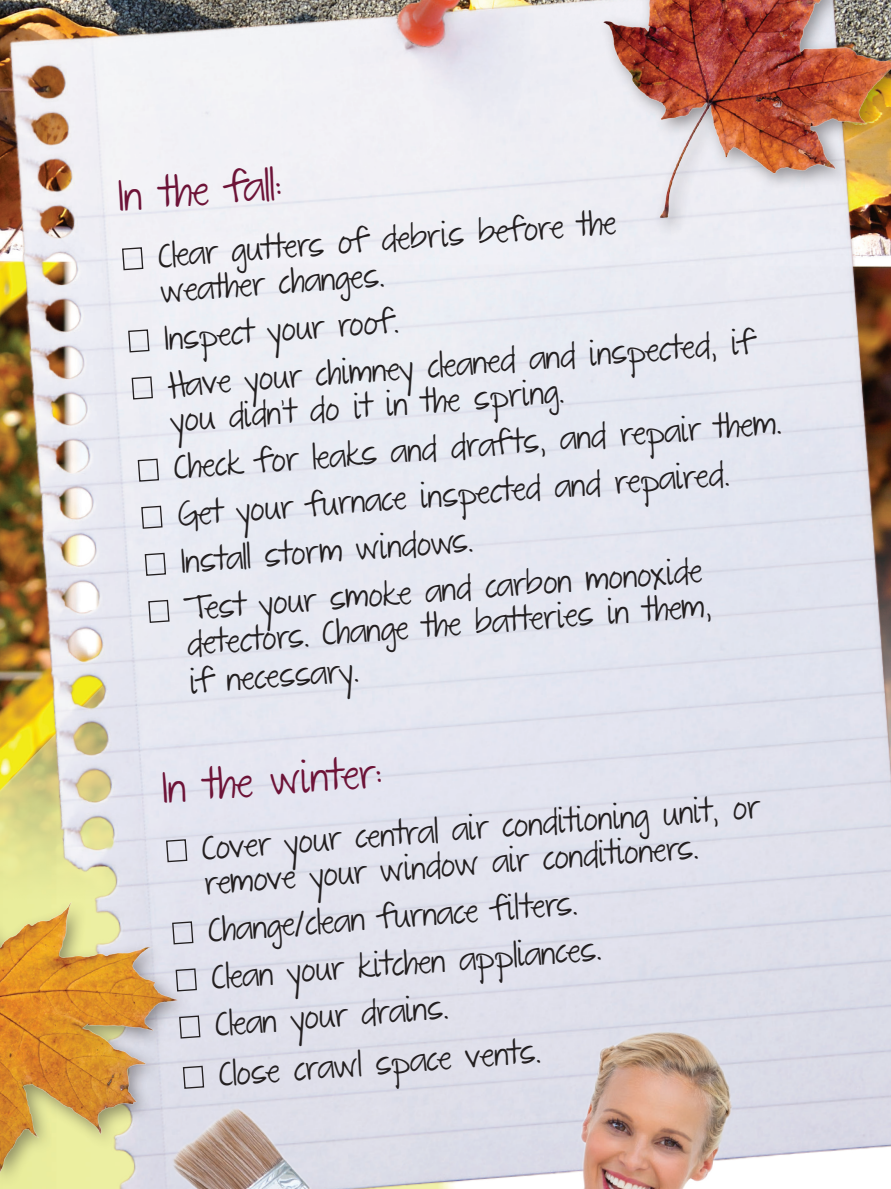

Home Maintenance Checklist

In the spring:

- Clear gutters of debris.
- Inspect your roof and chimney.
- Wash your windows, and check the window screens.
- Thoroughly clean your home, and clear any clutter.
- Paint your home's exterior.
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Change the batteries in them, if necessary.

In the summer:

- Install window air conditioners.
- Clean the filters in your home's HVAC system.
- Drain/flush your water heater.
- Open crawl space vents.
- Look for insect problems, especially termite damage.



In the fall:

- Clear gutters of debris before the weather changes.
- Inspect your roof.
- Have your chimney cleaned and inspected, if you didn't do it in the spring.
- Check for leaks and drafts, and repair them.
- Get your furnace inspected and repaired.
- Install storm windows.
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Change the batteries in them, if necessary.

In the winter:

- Cover your central air conditioning unit, or remove your window air conditioners.
- Change/clean furnace filters.
- Clean your kitchen appliances.
- Clean your drains.
- Close crawl space vents.

3 Benefits of Maintaining Your Home

- 1. Prevent costly repairs.** Home repairs can be expensive if they're not caught in time. Maintaining your home can help you find and correct potential problems before they take a chunk out of your wallet.
- 2. Keep your home and its systems humming.** Staying on top of home maintenance ensures that your home and its systems work well when you need them.
- 3. Improve salability of the home.** Most buyers want a home that's been well taken care of, and will pay closer to list price for it.

