



Fall Guide!

Transition your home to Fall!

1. Weatherproof your home
 - Especially as the leaves begin to fall, it's important to make sure your gutters are doing their job before the cold weather arrives. An overflowing gutter can cause damage to the house and turn your walkways into frozen slip and slides. Get your furnace cleaned and inspected before the heating season officially begins to ensure it's working properly and is safe for use. Seal up any cracks in your windows and doors to minimize your energy consumption during the chillier months. Turn off all outdoor faucets; coil and tie all garden hoses, and store them in a frost-free place.
2. Prep your fireplace
 - Is your fireplace and home ready for the upcoming colder months? Be sure to clean out your fireplace, check your chimney for blockages and make sure that your damper is working smoothly prior to using your fireplace. If your chimney is coated with soot or residue, you will need to have the chimney cleaned thoroughly to prevent fire hazards. For gas fireplaces, vacuum out any dust and check that the pilot light is properly turned on. If you're not sure what to look for to ensure your fireplace is safe to use, have a chimney expert clean and inspect your fireplace before you use it!
3. Bring the outside in
 - Use the beautiful nature surrounding us as excellent decorating material. Bring a natural yet sophisticated touch to your space. There are plenty of ways to decorate your home in a tasteful and festive way for fall. Pumpkins, gourds, fall foliage, and pinecones are a handful of popular themes that can serve as inspiration. Now is the season to utilize the beauty that upstate New York blesses us with!
4. Introduce deep, earthy colors
 - If you stick to a neutral base, layering in different tones each season will add depth and a unique visual interest without impacting the overall aesthetic. Rich, earthy hues are perfect for your fall decor and accents throughout your home.
5. Double check your roof
 - Few homeowner problems are more of a hassle than a leaky roof. Stop problems this Fall *before* ice and snow create any disasters. Start by inspecting your roof from top to bottom. Look for any damage to metal flashing in valleys and around vents and chimneys. Scan the entire roof for missing, curled, or damaged shingles. Look in your gutters for large accumulations of granules (a sign that your roof is losing its coating and may cause issues) and ensure your gutters are free from debris and are flowing properly!
6. Update your outdoor space with seasonal plants

- Create a beautiful Fall-like setting outside your home with seasonal plants such as mums or hydrangeas. The curb appeal of your home is important and a Fall update for your exterior may be just what you need to enhance your curb appeal!
7. Change your batteries & filters
 - Ensuring you are following good home maintenance habits is crucial for your safety and energy efficiency. One important habit is to check the batteries on your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms when the seasons change. This is easily forgotten and an important safety measure to take for you and your family. Another great habit is to change air filters on your heating and cooling unit, where dust and dirt build up over time. Your house will likely be closed up tight during the cooler months, so it's crucial to have good airflow and effective protection against carbon monoxide poisoning.
 8. Drain and store your lawn equipment
 - Over time, unused gas goes through chemical changes which lead to gunky build up and other harmful deposits that can destroy your lawn equipment. After you've given your lawn a final once-over for the season (usually sometime in October), you should drain the tanks of your lawn mower, leaf blower, weed-whacker, and any other gas powered lawn tools. Fall is also a great time to sharpen your lawn mower blades to make sure they'll be ready for Spring!