

## HOME MAINTENANCE

- Check/Service HVAC Unit: Change your HVAC unit's air filter. If unit is not running efficiently, schedule an HVAC service appointment. This will save you \$\$ on heating bills during the fall and winter months.
- **Conduct a DIV Energy Audit:** Upgrade old appliances to Energy Star appliances, check attic insulation, add/replace cracked weather stripping.
- Clean Fireplace & Chimney: Inspect flue, doors and shields. A damaged flue could cause there to be a deadly buildup of carbon monoxide. For your first fire, burn a Creosote Sweeping Log (CSL) to help remove any creosote buildup in your chimney.
- Inspect Hot Water Heater: Make sure your water heater is working properly and is free from sediment buildup by releasing the pressure from the tank and draining it with a garden hose. If in doubt, consult a professional.
- Check Furnace: Before turning your heat on for the first time, you should always change your furnace's air filter. If your furnace isn't firing properly, consult a professional technician for service now, before it gets too cold!
- Remove AC Window Units
- Inspect Windows and Doors: Check and replace weather stripping around doors and windows, where needed.
- Brighten Up Your Home: Winter can sometimes lead to depression. Fight the winter blues by cleaning windows and blinds, and adding more lamps and higher wattage lightbulbs.
- Perform Home Safety Check: Check and replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Create a family emergency plan. Review fire safety and evacuation plan. Don't have one? Click here for instructions for creating one.

## **LAWN & YARD CARE**

- **Create a Cold Weather Kit:** Gather your fall and winter tools and store in one place.
- Check Walkways, Stairs & Driveway: Make sure stairs and walkways have sturdy railings. Confirm driveway is in good shape for shoveling show and blowing leaves.
- **Cut and Stack Firewood:** Create a covered wood pile for easy winter access.
- **Rake Leaves:** A build-up of leaves can attract bugs, and hinder Spring growth.
- Clean Patio Furniture & Gardening Equipment
- Protect AC Units & Condensers: Place a piece of plywood on top of AC unit(s) to cover and protect from falling icicles.
- Repair Cracks in Driveway & Sidewalks
- Prune Trees & Shrubs
- Clean Gutters
- Shut Off Outdoor Plumbing & Cover Spigots
- Plant Bulbs: Plant bulbs around October in a full-sun spot for a beautiful surprise after the cold weather months have passed.

