

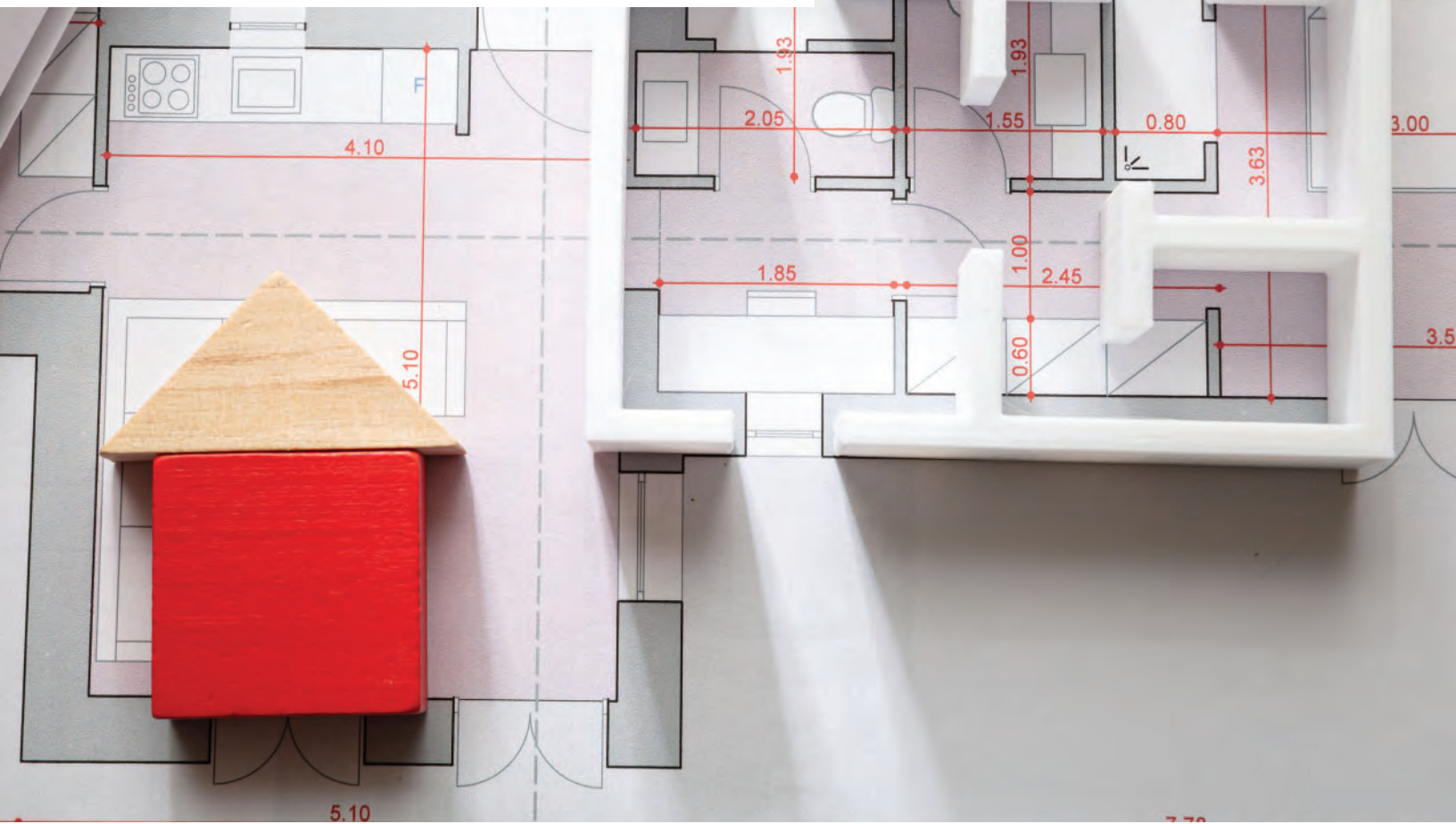


Home Maintenance List for:

January • February • March • April • May •
June • July • August • September •
October • November • December

HOME MAINTENANCE CALENDAR

monthly index or home
maintenance and home care



January

- **Interior Energy Efficiency Check**

- **Seal Drafts:**
Identify and seal drafts in windows and doors with weather stripping or caulking to improve your home's heat retention.
- **Heating System Maintenance:**
Replace or clean furnace filters to improve airflow and efficiency. Consider scheduling a professional tune-up if it hasn't been done yet this season.
- **Reverse Ceiling Fans:**
If applicable, switch your ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to push warm air down from the ceiling.

- **Safety Measures**

- **Test Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors:**
Ensure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are functioning properly. Replace batteries if necessary to maintain safety throughout the winter months.
- **Check Fire Extinguishers:**
Ensure fire extinguishers are accessible and not expired. Review how to use them with your household.

- **Exterior Safety and Upkeep**

- **Inspect Roof:**
Check for ice dams or icicles which can be a hazard as well as cause damage. Carefully remove them if possible, or contact a professional.
- **Clean Gutters and Downspouts:**
Remove leaves, twigs, and other debris from your gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams and ensure water can properly drain away from your home, minimizing the risk of water damage.
- **Prevent Slippery Surfaces:**
Regularly apply ice melt or sand on sidewalks, driveways, and entryways to prevent slips and falls.
- **Protect Outdoor Plumbing:**
Make sure any exterior faucets are insulated against freezing temperatures to prevent burst pipes.

February

- **Indoor Air Quality**

- **Replace HVAC Filters:**

- Continue to replace or clean the HVAC filters to maintain good indoor air quality and system efficiency.

- **Check Humidity Levels:**

- Use a hygrometer to check the humidity levels in your home. Ideal indoor humidity should be between 30% to 50% to prevent mold growth and static electricity.

- **Exterior Roof**

- **Inspect the Roof:**

- February's cold and inclement weather can exacerbate any existing weaknesses or damages to your home's roof. Conduct a visual inspection from the ground or consider hiring a professional to examine your roof for missing shingles, damage from ice dams, or other signs of wear and tear. This early detection can prevent minor issues from turning into costly repairs.

- **Clean Roof Vents:**

- Ensure that all roof vents are clear of snow, ice, and debris. Proper ventilation is essential to prevent moisture buildup in your attic, which can lead to mold growth and damage to the roof's structure.

- **Trim Overhanging Branches:**

- Heavy snow and ice can cause branches to break and fall, potentially damaging your roof or creating a hazard. Trim any branches that hang over your roof to reduce this risk.

- **Energy Efficiency Boost**

- **Inspect Insulation:**

- Check the attic, basement, and crawl spaces to ensure insulation is in good condition. Add or replace insulation as needed to improve heat retention.

- **Use Window Treatments:**

- Open curtains on south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home and close them at night to keep the cold out.

- **Plumbing Check**

- **Inspect Pipes for Leaks:**

- Look for any signs of leaks or damage to pipes, particularly those exposed to exterior walls that might be susceptible to freezing.

- **Ready the Sump Pump:**

- If you have a sump pump, test it by pouring water into the pit to make sure it operates correctly, as February's thaw can lead to higher water levels in some areas.

March

- **Exterior Inspection**

- **Roof and Gutter Check:**

- With the snow melting, it's crucial to inspect your roof for any signs of damage and clean out the gutters. Ice dams from the winter months can cause leaks and damage both.

- **Examine Siding and Foundation:**

- Look for cracks or damage in the siding and foundation that may have occurred during the winter. Early spring repairs can prevent water intrusion as the seasonal rains begin.

- **Check for any cracks or damage in the driveway and walkways:**

- The freeze-thaw cycle of winter can wreak havoc on concrete and asphalt surfaces. Early detection and repair of such damage can prevent further deterioration and ensure the safety of these pathways.

- **Landscaping and Exterior Grounds**

- **Prune Shrubs and Trees:**

- Late winter or early spring is the ideal time to prune most shrubs and trees, promoting healthy growth and flowering.

- **Prepare Garden Beds:**

- Clear out any leftover snow, remove dead plants, and till the soil to prepare for spring planting.

- **Safety Checks**

- **Test Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors:**

- Ensure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working correctly, replacing batteries if necessary.

- **Check Exterior Lighting:**

- Replace any burnt-out bulbs in outdoor lighting to maintain visibility and safety around pathways and entry areas.

April

- **HVAC System Check**

- **AC Servicing:**

- With the warmer weather on the horizon, ensure your air conditioning unit is serviced and ready to operate efficiently. Clean or replace filters, and check for any issues that might have arisen during its dormant winter months.

- **Window and Door Maintenance**

- **Seal and Weather-strip:**

- Inspect and replace the weather-stripping around windows and doors to improve energy efficiency. Look for gaps that allow air to escape, which can increase cooling costs as temperatures rise.

- **Screen Repair:**

- Repair any tears or damage to window screens to keep insects out during the warmer months when windows are more likely to be open.

- **Garden and Lawn Care**

- **Lawn Aeration and Fertilization:**

- Early April is an optimal time for aerating and fertilizing your lawn to promote healthy grass growth.

- **Start Planting:**

- Depending on your region, begin planting flowers and vegetables that thrive in warmer temperatures. Consider creating a planting schedule to keep your garden organized.

- **Sprinkler System Maintenance:**

- With the arrival of spring, it's essential to test your sprinkler system for any winter damage. Check for leaks, broken sprinkler heads, or clogged lines to ensure it operates efficiently for watering your garden and lawn. Early detection and repair of issues can save water and prevent further damage to the system.

- **General Cleaning**

- **Exterior Power Washing:**

- Clean the exterior surfaces of your home including siding, decks, and patios to remove dirt and grime accumulated over the fall and winter.

- **Gutter Maintenance:**

- Continue monitoring and cleaning gutters and downspouts to ensure proper drainage during April showers.

- **Outdoor Furniture Care:**

- Start the season by cleaning your outdoor furniture thoroughly. Check for wear or damage post-winter and repair as needed for safety and comfort. Consider applying new paint or sealant to protect wood and metal furniture from the elements.

- **Interior Cleaning**

- **Deep Clean Carpets and Rugs:**

- With the accumulation of winter dirt and dust, spring is the perfect time to deep clean carpets and rugs. Consider professional cleaning or rent a carpet cleaner to remove embedded dirt and allergens.

- **Declutter and Organize:**

- Tackle one room at a time to declutter and organize. Donate or dispose of items you no longer need, and find efficient storage solutions for those you keep.

- **Dust and Wipe Surfaces:**

- Pay special attention to dusting and wiping down all surfaces, including bookshelves, window sills, and ceiling fans. This not only freshens up your space but also improves indoor air quality.

- **Window Cleaning:**

- Clean both the inside and outside of windows to maximize natural light and improve the overall appearance of your home.

May

- **Exterior Inspection and Repairs**

- **Check Roof and Gutters:**

- Winter and early spring weather can be hard on your roof and gutters. Inspect them for damage and clear any debris to prevent water damage. Look out for missing, loose, or damaged shingles and address any issues immediately to avoid leaks.

- **Inspect and Repair Outdoor Decking or Patios:**

- Look for signs of wear and tear on your decking or patios. Replace any damaged boards or tiles, and consider resealing wood decks to protect against the summer sun.

- **Examine Exterior Walls:**

- Check for any cracks or damage in the siding or paint. Repairing these not only boosts curb appeal but also prevents moisture from penetrating and causing mold or structural damage.

- **Pressure Wash Your House:**

- Over the months, your home's exterior can accumulate dirt, grime, and even mold or algae, which can diminish its appearance and potentially cause damage in the long run. Pressure washing your house not only restores its beauty but can also extend the life of your siding and paint. It's a task well worth doing in May to freshen up your home's exterior for the summer ahead.

- **Garden and Lawn Care**

- **Lawn Maintenance:**

- Start regular lawn mowing, if not already done in April, setting your mower to a higher cut to encourage root growth. Fertilize your lawn to promote healthy, green growth.

- **Mulch and Weed Garden Beds:**

- Apply a fresh layer of mulch in your garden beds to retain moisture, keep weeds at bay, and add a neat appearance to your yard. Early weeding can save effort later in the season.

- **Prune Shrubs and Trees:**

- Late spring is a good time to prune many shrubs and trees, removing any dead or diseased branches. This encourages healthy growth and flowering.

- **Plant Flowers or Start a Garden:**

- May is a great time for planting flowers and starting a vegetable or herb garden. Once the risk of frost is past, choose native or climate-adapted plants to boost biodiversity and attract pollinators like bees and butterflies.

For veggies, try easy-to-grow options like tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers. Prep the soil with compost or manure for healthy plants all season long.

June

- **Exterior Painting and Repairs**

- **Inspect and Paint Exteriors:**

- Check the exterior of your home for chipped or faded paint. Summer is the perfect time for painting due to the lower likelihood of rain and higher temperatures that help paint dry more efficiently. Selecting a weekend with mild weather can make this task more enjoyable and lead to better results.

- **Repair Damaged Siding and Trim:**

- Examine your home's siding and trim for any damage sustained over the colder months. Prompt repairs can prevent water intrusion and further damage.

- **Termite Inspection:**

- Termites can cause significant damage to the structure of your home, often without immediate signs of their presence. Early summer is a good time to have a professional inspect your home for termites, ensuring any infestations are caught and treated early.

- **Check for Cracks in Foundation or Walls:**

- Inspect the foundation and exterior walls of your home for any cracks or signs of movement. Even small cracks can be an entry point for water, insects, and other pests, leading to more significant issues if left unaddressed. Early detection and repair can prevent costly structural repairs in the future.

- **Deck and Patio Care**

- **Inspect and Repair Decks and Patios:**

- Look for signs of wear and tear on wooden decks and stone patios. Repair any loose boards or unstable pavers, and consider resealing the wood to protect against moisture and sun damage.

- **Clean and Organize Outdoor Living Spaces:**

- Sweep decks and patios, clean outdoor furniture, and remove any accumulated debris.

- **HVAC System Check**

- **Schedule Air Conditioning Service:**

- If not already done, ensure your air conditioning unit is serviced to keep it running efficiently during the hot months. Replacing filters, checking for leakages, and ensuring the system is operating efficiently can prevent breakdowns and save on energy costs.

- **Gutter Maintenance**

- **Clean Gutters and Downspouts:**

- Clear any debris from gutters and downspouts to ensure proper drainage during summer storms. This can prevent water damage to your foundation and landscaping, and reduce the likelihood of pest infestations.

July

- **Landscaping and Lawn Care**

- **Regular Lawn Watering and Mowing:**

- To maintain a healthy, green lawn throughout the summer, regular watering and mowing are essential. Adjust your watering schedule according to the rainfall and temperature, aiming for early morning or late evening to minimize evaporation.

- **Prune Shrubs and Trees:**

- Inspect your garden for any overgrown shrubs or tree branches that may pose a risk to your property, especially in stormy weather. Pruning helps maintain plant health and enhances the aesthetic appeal of your outdoor space.

- **Check for Leaks in Irrigation System:**

- Regular inspection of your irrigation system can save water and prevent damage to your landscape. Look for signs of leaks, such as unusually wet areas, low water pressure, or eroding soil.

- **Inspect and Clean Outdoor Grill:**

- Before hosting any backyard barbecues, thoroughly inspect and clean your outdoor grill. Check for any signs of wear and tear or rust, especially in gas grills' burners and hoses. A clean grill ensures safe cooking and better-tasting food. Remove grease or fat buildup from grates and trays to prevent flare-ups and uneven cooking.

- **Energy Efficiency Upgrades**

- **Install or Check Weather Stripping:**

- Inspect doors and windows for worn-out weather stripping. Replacing or repairing these can significantly improve your home's insulation, keeping it cooler without overworking your air conditioning unit.

- **Upgrade to LED Lighting:**

- Consider replacing traditional incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient LED bulbs. They not only use less electricity but also emit less heat, helping to keep your home cooler.

- **Clean Out Dryer Vent:**

- Over time, lint and debris can accumulate in your dryer vent, posing a significant fire hazard and reducing the efficiency of your dryer. It's crucial to clean out the dryer vent to ensure safety and improve your appliance's performance.

- **Exterior Home Inspection**

- **Inspect Roof for Damage:**

- Mid-summer is a good time to inspect your roof for any signs of damage or wear that could lead to leaks during heavy summer rains. Look for missing or damaged shingles and repair as necessary.

- **Check Outdoor Lighting:**

- Ensure that all outdoor lighting is functional to enhance home security and extend the usability of outdoor spaces into the evening. Replace any burnt-out bulbs and consider adding motion sensor lights for added security.

August

- **HVAC System Check**

- **Schedule Professional HVAC Maintenance:**

- Before the cooler weather sets in, have a professional inspect and service your HVAC system. This can help ensure it's running efficiently and catch any potential issues before they require expensive repairs.

- **Prepare for Autumn**

- **Clean and Inspect Gutters:**

- Remove any debris from your gutters to ensure proper rainwater diversion away from your home. Check for any signs of wear or damage that could impact functionality during the autumn months.

- **Schedule Chimney Cleaning and Inspection:**

- Engage a professional to clean and inspect your chimney before the start of the heating season. This is crucial to prevent chimney fires and ensure carbon monoxide is properly vented outside your home.

- **Interior Maintenance**

- **Seal Air Leaks:**

- With cooler weather approaching, it's important to seal any air leaks in your home. Check for drafts around windows/doors and use caulk or weather stripping to seal them.

- **Check Insulation:**

- Make sure your attic insulation is adequate and evenly distributed. This can help maintain a consistent temperature throughout your home during the colder months.

- **Attic Vent Maintenance:**

- Check these vents for any obstructions such as nests, debris, or dust, and clean them thoroughly to promote efficient airflow.

- **Clean Your Fireplace:**

- If you have a fireplace, clean out any leftover ashes and debris. This will help improve its efficiency and reduce the risk of fire hazards.

- **Landscaping and Outdoor Areas**

- **Aerate and Seed Your Lawn:**

- Late August is an ideal time to aerate your lawn, allowing oxygen, water, and nutrients to reach the roots more effectively.

- **Ensure Home Safety**

- **Test Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors:**

- Verify that all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are functioning correctly and replace batteries as needed.

September

- **Heating System Readiness**

- **Schedule Heating System Inspection:**

- Arrange for a professional inspection of your heating system. Early detection of any malfunction can save on heating costs and avoid the discomfort of a cold home.

- **Replace Furnace Filters:**

- Changing your furnace filters regularly improves air quality and the efficiency of your heating system.

- **Exterior Maintenance**

- **Check Windows and Doors for Leaks:**

- Inspect windows and doors for drafts, sealing any gaps with weather stripping or caulk. This simple task can significantly reduce heating costs and increase comfort.

- **Inspect Roof for Damage:**

- Summer storms can damage your roof. Inspect it for missing or damaged shingles and address any issues promptly to avoid leaks.

- **Clean and Inspect Gutters:**

- With the fall season approaching, ensuring your gutters are clean and free from debris is crucial. Leaves, twigs, and other obstructions can lead to water damage and foundation issues. Perform a thorough cleaning and inspection of your gutters to ensure proper water flow away from your home.

- **Gardening and Yard Preparation**

- **Plant Fall Flowers:**

- September is a great time to plant flowers that bloom in fall. Consider adding mums, pansies, or asters to your garden for a splash of color.

- **Prepare Your Garden for Winter:**

- Begin cleaning out your garden, removing any spent plants, and adding mulch to protect plants that will remain through winter.

- **Indoor Safety and Comfort**

- **Check Detectors Again:**

- With the heating season approaching, ensure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order, replacing batteries if necessary.

- **Prepare Outdoor Living Spaces**

- **Clean and Store Patio Furniture:**

- Clean your outdoor furniture and prepare it for storage to protect it from the elements during the colder months.

October

- **Heating System Checkup**

- **Schedule a Professional Heating System Inspection:**

- Before the cold winter months set in, it's essential to have your heating system checked by a professional. This ensures your furnace, boiler, or heat pump operates efficiently and safely throughout the winter.

- **Fireplace and Chimney Maintenance**

- **Inspect and Clean the Fireplace and Chimney:**

- If you have a wood-burning fireplace, October is the perfect time to have the chimney cleaned and inspected. A clean chimney prevents fires and ensures smoke is properly vented outside.

- **Outdoor Maintenance**

- **Drain and Store Garden Hoses:**

- Prevent water hoses from freezing and cracking by draining them and storing them indoors. Also, shut off outdoor water valves to prevent pipes from freezing.

- **Clean Gutters and Downspouts:**

- After most leaves have fallen, clean your gutters and downspouts to prevent water buildup that can lead to roof and foundation damage.

- **Check and Replace Weather Stripping:**

- Ensuring the weather stripping around doors and windows is intact is vital for keeping your home warm and reducing heating costs. Check for any gaps, damage, or wear and replace weather stripping as needed to maintain an energy-efficient home.

- **Gardening and Yard Preparation**

- **Plant Bulbs for Spring Flowers:**

- October is an ideal time to plant bulbs such as tulips and daffodils that will bloom in the spring.

- **Rake Leaves:**

- Regularly rake or mulch leaves to keep your lawn healthy and prevent mold growth.

- **Indoor Safety and Comfort**

- **Test Heating System and Thermostats:**

- Before the real cold arrives, test your heating system and thermostats to ensure they are working correctly.

- **Reverse Ceiling Fans:**

- Change the direction of your ceiling fans to clockwise to create an updraft that circulates warm air from the ceiling down into the room.

November

- **Heating and Insulation Checks**

- **Service Your Heating System:**

- November is the last call for a professional inspection and service of your heating system to ensure it operates efficiently during the coldest months.

- **Check and Add Insulation:**

- Inspect your home's insulation, particularly in the attic and basement, to keep heat from escaping. Adding extra insulation where necessary can significantly improve your home's warmth and energy efficiency.

- **Window and Door Sealing**

- **Seal Drafts:**

- Check windows and doors for drafts and apply weather stripping or caulking to seal them. This small task can prevent cold air from entering and reduce heating costs.

- **Safety Equipment Maintenance**

- **Test Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors:**

- Ensure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are functioning by testing them and replacing batteries if needed. This is especially important during the winter when the house is closed up, and heating systems are in constant use.

- **Prepare the Exterior**

- **Store Outdoor Furniture:**

- Clean and store outdoor furniture and decorations to protect them from winter weather damage.

- **Snow Preparation:**

- Check the condition of your snowblower, shovels, and other snow removal equipment. Stock up on eco-friendly ice melt before the first snowfall.

- **Check and Clean Gutters One Last Time:**

- Ensure your gutters are free from leaves, twigs, and debris to prevent ice dams and water damage during winter storms. Properly flowing gutters can significantly reduce the risk of water seeping into your home's foundation or causing roof problems.

December

- **Interior Inspection and Maintenance**

- **Check Heating Vents:**

- Ensure that all heating vents are open and unblocked by furniture or rugs to improve the efficiency of your heating system.

- **Inspect and Clean the Fireplace:**

- If you have a fireplace, inspect it for soot or blockage, and consider hiring a professional chimney sweep to clean it thoroughly. This reduces the risk of chimney fires and carbon monoxide buildup.

- **Organize and Declutter:**

- Winter is the perfect time to sort through belongings and declutter your home. Take advantage of being indoors more often to organize closets, pantries, and storage areas.

Donate, recycle, or dispose of items you no longer need or use. This not only makes your living spaces more pleasant but can also help you find needed items more easily and prepare your home for the new year.

- **Emergency Preparedness**

- **Review Emergency Plans and Kits:**

- Update your home's emergency preparedness plans. Ensure that your emergency kits are stocked with supplies such as water, non-perishable food, flashlights, and first aid supplies.

- **Prevent Pipes from Freezing:**

- To prevent pipes from freezing and potentially bursting, insulate pipes in unheated areas and consider letting faucets drip slightly during especially cold nights to keep water moving.

- **Exterior Check and Upkeep**

- **Clean Gutters and Drains:**

- Remove any debris accumulated in your gutters and drains to prevent ice dams and water damage.

- **Check Exterior Lights:**

- With shorter days, ensure all exterior lighting is functioning properly. Replace any burnt-out bulbs to maintain visibility and safety around your home's perimeter.

Supporting Information:

<https://www.letsrenovate.com/maintenance>

Other Areas of Analysis the May Be of Interest:

Kitchen:

<https://www.letsrenovate.com/kitchen-ideas>

Bed n' Bath:

<https://www.letsrenovate.com/bed-bath>

Interior Rooms:

<https://www.letsrenovate.com/interior-home>

Home Decor:

<https://www.letsrenovate.com/home-decor-ideas>

Home Utility:

<https://www.letsrenovate.com/ideas/home-utility>

Home Structure:

<https://www.letsrenovate.com/home-structure>

Home Remodeling:

<https://www.letsrenovate.com/home-remodeling>

Yard n' Garden:

<https://www.letsrenovate.com/yard>