



# Pre-autumn home fixes

As warm summer months come to an end, consider these quick — but important — home maintenance tasks to finish before fall:

1. **Check window seals.** Ensure the caulk on your windows doesn't have any gaps. Lightly tap on the windowpane, when it rattles in its frame, you need new glazing, which reduces your heating bill come fall.
2. **Swap out summer plants.** Transition your yard from high maintenance flowers to more hardy plants that will survive the winter cold. Good plants for cooler weather include pansies and garden mums. Also, prepare for spring blossoms by planting your tulip and daffodil bulbs.
3. **Safety check your chimney.** Chimneys require regular maintenance to ensure safety. Have a professional clean and inspect the chimney this year, and don't forget to gather enough firewood to get the season started!
4. **Inspect smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.** Dangerous carbon monoxide leaks can lead to serious harm when a home is sealed up during cold weather. House fires are most likely to occur during the cold months when candles, Christmas trees and fireplaces abound. Check all your safety detectors before the cold weather arrives, and rest easy.
5. **Store outdoor items.** Do a clean sweep of your yard, storing away garden hoses and patio furniture for next year. This boosts your home's curb appeal and avoids frozen hoses and moldy furniture later in the season.

Are you thinking of when to sell? Give me a call so we can discuss what else readies your home for a sale.