



AIR AFFAIR

Check the air passageways throughout your house to be sure the air you're breathing is as healthy as it can be:

- Change filters: furnace, humidifier, range hood fan, vacuum fridge coils (Remember: clean appliances are happy appliances. And they will cost you less money to run!)
- Clean dryer vent to remove built-up lint
- Have a professional inspect your furnace
- Get your ducts cleaned by a professional (they can blow out your dryer vent too!)
- Cover air conditioner
- Inspect chimney and fireplace to be sure they are free of debris or buildup (ensure the chimney cap is in good shape as well)
- Atco Gas recommends having your gas appliances and fireplaces inspected regularly. It's free!
[Click here for more information](#)

CURB APPEAL

Stand back and take a look at your house from the outside. Then, get up close and personal. Walk around, use binoculars for the high spots, and take note of any areas needing attention:

- Check roof for missing or curling shingles, or dark spots (sign of potential water infiltration)
- Inspect and clean gutters (if there is an accumulation of granules, that could be a sign your shingles are deteriorating)
- Direct drainage away from your house
- Check for cracks in foundation, separations in siding, or gaps around windows or wiring access points (then have an expert seal them!)
- Ensure weather stripping on doors is secure
- Cover or store outdoor furniture (it will take a beating with the cold, moisture and sunlight through the winter)
- Check exterior light fixtures, replace bulbs as required
- Inspect your deck & railings for protruding nails, shifting boards or other damage. Have a look for cracks or damage in your sidewalks & driveways as well. Your shovel will thank you later!
- Don't forget to give your garage the same attention!

WATER WISE

Remember, water flow and efficiency is also important:

- Drain exterior hoses and store in a warm location for winter (they can freeze and crack if you store them outside!)
- Flush your hot water heater to remove sediment
- Shut off water lines to your exterior hose bibs then drain remaining water
- Blow out your sprinkler system and deactivate it for the season
- Check your clothes washer for a filter to be cleaned or drained

LAY OF THE LAND(SCAPE)

- Seed and/or fertilize lawn with high phosphorous content (high "middle number")
- Prune trees and bushes, check for any precarious limbs or dead spots to be addressed
- Consider any aerating or tilling of grass and gardens
- Plant bulbs for spring
- Water trees, shrubs and grass to stock up water reserves for winter
- Cover vulnerable shrubs and bushes
- Empty exterior plant pots and store

SAFETY FIRST

- Inspect your fire extinguishers and check the expiration date (if you don't have one, get one!)
- Check batteries and test smoke & carbon monoxide detectors. Have you tested for radon?
- Take a few moments to review your "fire drill plan" with your family to be prepared for any emergencies

TOOL TIME

- Give the BBQ a good inspection & cleaning, store the propane tank, wipe away your tears, and cover it (don't fret, it's not goodbye forever, only farewell for the season. No one likes to flip burgers in minus 40.)
- Drain fuel from mower, weed eater, etc and store
- Cover or store outdoor furniture
- Bring your shovel and snow blower out for easy access and check fuel (may as well put your snow scraper back in your car while you're at it)