



FALL HOME SAFETY TIPS

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The crisp weather and color-changing leaves make it a great time to spruce up your home.

Fall and winter is the time of year when we tend to plug in a lot more devices. It's important to test all smoke alarms and have a family fire drill. Remember to replace used and expired fire extinguishers as well. Here are some autumn safety tips for your home, for a safe and enjoyable fall season.

- Turn your heater on before the temperatures really plummet so you can ensure it works. Contact a technician to inspect if you suspect it needs servicing.
- Keep all flammable materials away from your furnace. This includes, clothing, paint products, toxic materials, cardboard and more.
- If you use a portable or space heater, keep it away from clothing, bedding, drapery and furniture. Remember to shut them off if you leave the house and don't leave them unattended if you have children or pets.
- If you have a fireplace, have the chimney inspected to confirm it is free of debris, creosote buildup, and is unobstructed so combustibles can vent. Make sure the bricks, mortar and liner are in good condition.
- Do not warm your kitchen with a gas range or an open oven door, as this can lead to toxic air that is not safe to breathe.
- Doing laundry? Avoid fires by cleaning filters after each load of wash and removing lint that collects in dryer vents.
- Do a quick check for areas that may need repair before extreme weather hits: unsteady roof shingles, warped windowsills and concrete that might be sloping toward the house.
- Check all outdoor lighting fixtures to make sure they are working properly. This can safeguard you against falls and neighborhood crime.
- Clean your gutters by removing all debris and leaves.
- Before burning leaves, check your city's or county's regulations, as it may be illegal where you live. If you burn them, do so away from the house and use proper containers.

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