

Novembers Checklist.

Now November is a tricky time for home maintenance because it's usually too cold to paint, the leaves have likely been raked and grass cut for the final time... so what are we supposed to do? Well we come up with a small checklist to help you make sure your home functions during the winter and garden tools stay in tip top shape for the spring we can't wait for.

Clean or replace your furnace or HRV Filters

Now we've done a tip on this before, so this is just a reminder. Don't forget to do this. Like the air filters or oil in your car if not changed frequently it will breakdown faster and will cost you more money in the long run.

It is also a good time to call in a furnace specialist to give that puppy the once over. Preventative maintenance is always more cost effective than repairs.

Change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

Now this is something we all know we need to do, but rarely fallow through. In fact, they should be tested every 2 months and batteries changed 2 twice a year and doing it on or near Remembrance Day is a great time to remember to do it. It's also a good time to remember to pop those winter tires on.

Humidity check

Humidity can be a big problem in the winter, as the wet cold exterior environment battles the damp warm interior. This can create condensation on the windows. Which can rot out wood windows and create mold also. If you have condensation on your windows, you may want to start by circulating the air with fans or purchase a dehumidifier.

Use the test button on your GFCI

You have it for a reason and most of us never use it... but testing it will possibly save your life. Afterall a GFCI outlet is only useful if it works. Test it once a year at least.

Clean Your Gutters

If you're in an established neighbourhood with large trees, you likely have a lot of raking to do. That also means your gutters are likely filling up with maple keys and leaves. Once all the leaves are down either go up and check or call a gutter cleaning service to do it for you. Clean gutters allow water to pass faster lessening the possibility of water freezing and tearing them off mid-winter.

Cleaning your garden tools.

If you have a green thumb, you likely have your fair share of gardening tools and they likely get quite dirty. It's important to try to clean them at the end of each season to help them last longer and stay stronger and prevents rust. All you need is a scrubby, a little elbow grease and some liquid dish soap.

Turn off your exterior hose bib.

Unless you have a frost proof hose bib, it's time to turn off your exterior hose bib. Simply find your water shut off to the exterior hose bib. It is usually in the basement ceiling near the outside wall where the hose bib sits on the exterior wall. Once that is turned off go outside and open up your hose bib and let it drain.