

10 Must-Do Autumn Maintenance Tips for the Home Carol D'Annunzio (Simple Catholic Living)

Now that autumn is here, it's time to prepare for the winter months by doing a little home maintenance. Here's a check-list of some of the important things you should remember to do (or add to your husband's "honey-do" list)

1. **Say goodbye to your summer "stuff"**. It is time to clean and pack away all your summer furniture, toys, wading pools, garden hoses, etc.
2. **Empty and stow away any gas-powered equipment**; such as lawn mowers and grills. (Unless you are a die-hard griller and grill all winter like a friend of mine does, that is!)
3. **Clean the gutters**. It's not a pleasant job but you should inspect your gutters every spring and autumn. Take the time to get rid of any debris or dirt that may have gotten caught in the gutters.
4. **Remove screens**. Take out all window screens and door screens. Repair screens as needed so you won't have to fix them next spring. Put in storm windows if you have them.
5. **Change all air filters**. It's best to change air filters every three to six months, so you may want to set up reminders to yourself to do this.
6. **Inspect vents and heating ducts**. Clean, dust and repair if needed. It's also a good idea to make sure your heater is working efficiently, too. Better to find out you need your heater fixed now than when it 10 below!
7. **Cover the second floor vents**. I got this tip from my father in-law. In the winter, cover the vents on the upper floors of your house and open wide the vents on your first floor and basement. Since heat rises, doing this helps to keep your first floor a little warmer without putting the thermostat up too high. *
8. **Check for leaks**. Inspect all windows and doors to make sure there aren't any drafts. If so, caulk, seal or replace strippers. You can **buy an insulator kit**; or, cover the windows with plastic. don't forget to check any wires or plumbing that leads to the outside to make sure they aren't leaking any drafts into the house, too.

9. **Replace those batteries!** Test and replace the batteries in all smoke detectors, carbon monoxide monitors and flash lights.

10. **Inspect your fireplace.** If you have a fireplace, consider getting a chimney sweep and have a professional inspect the fireplace to make sure it is safe to use.

Just one more:

11. **Check for bugs.** Now that the weather is getting cold, you may want to keep an eye out for bugs, small animals and/or other critters who may be looking for a warm place to stay! The attic, kitchen cupboards and dark basements are all places they like to hide. If need be, get an exterminator.

*Reverse this for the summer: Cover all the vents on the first floor and basement and close all the vents in the upper floors. This will keep the upper floors a little cooler in the summer.

About Carol



Like many of us, Carol is a jack of all trades: wife, homeschooling mother, homemaker, and most importantly, a child of God. She is featured on Ezinearticles.com, a contributor to [The Catholic Bloggers Network](http://TheCatholicBloggersNetwork), and blogs at [Simple Catholic Living](http://SimpleCatholicLiving) where you will find encouragement and resources for living out your womanly Christian vocation.

Let's Connect!

I'd love to hear from you. If you have any questions, comments or (constructive!) criticism please feel free to contact me at carol@simplecatholicliving.com.

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Don't forget to friend / follow me on the following social media sites. I will do my best to follow you back as soon as possible!

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