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## Preparing your Home for the Upcoming Fall Season

Now that the summer is finally winding down, Canadian home owners should now focus on preparing their homes for the colder fall and winter months.

With that in mind, here are some tips on preparing your home for the fall months:

- Inspect your roof for missing, loose or damaged shingles and fix as soon as possible. A solid roof during the fall and winter months will give you peace of mind and will save you money in the short term and long term.
- Inspect your chimney and have it cleaned if necessary.
- Protect your plumbing and make sure your pipes are in good condition so they don't rupture or break if they should freeze.
- Clear your gutters of any leaves, branches or materials to allow fall moisture (e.g. rain and/or snow) to run through freely.
- Make sure that the insulation is properly distributed in the home to ensure heat stays in the home. The attic is crucial considering heat rises and if insulation is lacking, then the heat will escape the home easily.
- Caulk anywhere where moisture or dirt can enter the house from outside. It offers a first line of defense against the weather conditions and it helps to prevent mold from growing as well.
- Ensure that the thermostats and heating systems are working properly. If they are not, they may need to be serviced.
- Make sure to fertilize your lawn and cut it on occasion to allow for it to be well preserved for next spring and summer.
- Make sure you take any summer lawn furniture (including barbeque) down into a sheltered area in or near your house. Doing this will prevent any rust or breakage to the furniture. You spent money on the furniture so you might as well have it for a few summer seasons.
- In addition to the previous point, if you do have a barbeque, make sure you dispose of any remaining propane left in the tank in a safe place. Leakage can occur and could pose a dangerous fire hazard to your home.

A home is always a work in progress. There is always something that can be done to enhance it and protect it from the elements. These tips should allow you to keep your home safe and warm from the weather conditions that lie ahead in the coming months.

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