

Fall Home Maintenance Checklist



Fall is the critical time to help prepare your home against flooding. Once the ground freezes, water can no longer drain properly, allowing small vulnerabilities to potentially become costly emergencies. Work through this list and head into winter with more confidence.



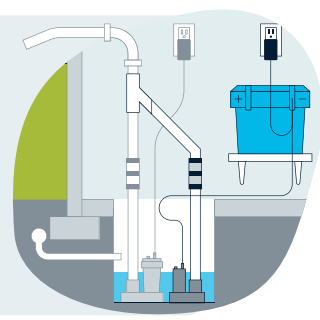
Roof & gutters

Leaves fill gutters in the fall. If left uncleared, snow on your roof can become an ice dam, forcing water under your shingles and into your home.

- ☐ Inspect your roof for missing or damaged shingles.
- ☐ Remove leaves and dirt from your eavestroughs. Then flush downspouts with a garden hose to confirm water flows.
- ☐ Make sure downspouts direct water at least 2 metres away from your foundation.

Sump pump & backwater valve

Heavy fall rains are a major test of your sump pump and drainage system. Test your system now.



- ☐ Test your sump pump by pouring water into the pit. It should turn on and drain the water out. If you don't have one, speak with a plumber.
- ☐ Add a battery backup to your sump pump to ensure it stays running when a storm knocks out the power.
- ☐ Check your backwater valve to make sure the flap is sealing properly. If you don't have a backwater valve, ask a plumber about installing one to prevent sewage from backing up into your home.

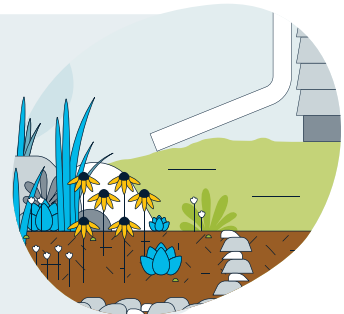
Foundation & windows

Any crack that lets water in during fall rains could be wider by spring. Seal it now because sealants cannot be applied in colder temperatures.

- ☐ Inspect foundation walls for cracks and seal them.
- ☐ Check seals around basement windows and doors. Replace weatherstripping where needed.
- ☐ Install window well covers to help prevent leaves and snow from packing against windows.

Yard & drainage

Once the ground freezes, surface water can no longer drain into the soil and it can run across the frozen surface toward your foundation.



- ☐ Ensure your yard slopes away from your house. Add soil to create a gentle slope if necessary.
- ☐ Keep window wells clear of leaves and dirt so water has the proper space to drain.
- ☐ In areas where water pools, consider adding a simple drainage solution like a rain garden.

These simple tasks, performed regularly, can help make a big difference in preparing your home for unpredictable weather. For more tips on being prepared, visit [rbc.com/homesilience](https://www.rbc.com/homesilience).

