

Seasonal Home Maintenance Checklist

The weather can swing wildly in Canada and that can take a toll on your home.

That's why seasonal maintenance is an important part of keeping your home resilient and ready for any challenge nature might throw at it. By taking time every spring and fall to clean, fix and prepare your home, you can reduce damage from natural disasters, save money on your energy bills, extend the life of your home and protect your family.

If you find any issues while going through your checklist, we recommend getting repairs done as soon as possible. Hiring a contractor to help with repairs you aren't comfortable with might cost a bit of money now, but it can save you big in the long run!

Looking for more resources on making your home weather resistant? Visit the [Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction](#) for more building tips, data and resources.

Note

Despite our best efforts, these checklists are not a complete list of projects to keep your home maintained and ready for severe weather. Find out the unique needs of your property and use the extra section we've provided on the checklist to add your own tasks. Additionally, many homes won't have all the systems we mention on this list.

For more tips and tricks on preparing your home for severe weather, visit our website at sgicanada.ca/climate.

Spring Checklist

Eavestrough and downspouts	
	Clean eavestroughs and downspouts. Water should flow cleanly through the eaves and down the downspouts.
	Make sure downspouts and extensions are secure and draining water at least 2 meters away from your foundation towards proper drainage.
	Check eaves and downspouts for damage, and ensure they don't leak, sag or collect water.
	Set up rain barrels and ensure overflow water drains properly.
Roof and shingles	
	Clean debris like leaves, garbage or branches off your roof.
	Clean skylights.
	Inspect your roof for age or damage like missing or curled shingles or holes in the roof.
	Inspect chimneys, skylights, satellite dishes, antennas and vents. Make sure they aren't broken and that the flashing is in good condition.
Siding, windows and doors	
	Remove winter window coverings.
	Install screens and storm doors.
	Clean windows and doors.
	Check siding and foundation for cracks, holes or other issues.
	Inspect and fix weatherstripping and seals around doors and windows.
	Clean siding and under eaves.
	Clean the vents for your furnace, water heater and laundry dryer.
Landscaping	
	Clear a 3-meter area around buildings and fences. Remove items that are stored near structures and make sure there are clear pathways for emergency services.
	Trim trees and bushes away from structures and powerlines. Prune dead branches.
	Clean and tidy up your yard including clearing debris and securing yard furniture.
	Clear a large area (at least 3 meters) around fire pits.
	Check that sheds, trampolines, barbecues and other items in your yard are properly anchored to the ground.
	Inspect any wells or septic tanks on your property.
	Keep your lawn mowed as short as possible to create a fire break around your home.
	Check that the grading around buildings directs water to good drainage.
Home systems	
	Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
	Have your air conditioning system inspected and maintained.
	Inspect fire extinguishers.
	Test your sump pump.
	Test and clean your backwater valve.
	Test the ground fault interrupt switches on electrical sockets (inside and outside).
Other	
	Set up your grill and check the fuel system for leaks.

Fall Checklist

Eavestrough and downspouts	
	Clean eavestroughs and downspouts. Water should flow cleanly through the eaves and down the downspouts.
	Make sure downspouts and extensions are secure and draining water at least 2 meters away from your foundation towards proper drainage.
	Inspect eaves and downspouts for damage. Make sure they don't leak, sag or collect water.
	Put away rain barrels and attach downspouts to drain water away from your home.
Roof and shingles	
	Clean debris like leaves, garbage or branches off your roof.
	Clean skylights.
	Inspect your roof for age or damage like missing or curled shingles or holes in the roof.
	Inspect chimneys, skylights, satellite dishes, antennas and vents and ensure they aren't broken and that the flashing is in good condition.
Siding, windows and doors	
	Install winter window coverings.
	Remove or clean screens and storm doors.
	Clean windows and doors.
	Check siding and foundation for cracks, holes or other issues.
	Inspect and fix weatherstripping and seals around doors and windows.
	Clean the vents for your furnace, water heater and laundry dryer.
Landscaping	
	Clear area around buildings and fences. Remove items that are stored near structures and ensure there are clear pathways for emergency services.
	Clean and tidy up your yard including clearing debris and securing yard furniture.
	Put away yard furniture, barbecues and other summer items.
Home systems	
	Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
	Have your heating system and fireplace inspected and maintained.
	Inspect fire extinguishers.
	Test your sump pump.
	Test and clean your backwater valve.
	Cover your air conditioning unit.
Other	