

# october home checklist

**clean your gutters** 

Stay on top of leaves this fall, and once the last one has fallen to the ground, it's time to clear out your gutters. Either hire someone, or climb up the ladder yourself, and get rid of all the build up and any blockages.

**treat your windows** 

In the winter, the windows in your home take on added significance. They let in precious light and help you connect to the outside world. Improve your view by swapping out your old curtains for some new ones, cleaning the ones you have, or adding a refreshing little detail.

**put away outdoor gear** 

You've been lingering outside in your backyard as late as possible into the season. It's now time to scrub down all your patio furniture and either cover it, or store it away. Similarly, your grill might need a good cleaning. You don't want to wait until it's 30 below and your hose is frozen solid.

**plant bulbs** 

If you didn't do it last month, decide early this month where to plant your flowers and prepare the soil. Tuck bulbs in, and you'll have gorgeous blooms comes spring.

**book your holiday travel** 

If you want reasonably priced airline tickets for Thanksgiving and Christmas flights, book this month and allay any fears that seats will fill up and flight prices will spike.

**maintenance your fireplace or wood stove** 

If you rely on wood to stay warm, or just love the feel of a real fire, now is a good time to clean out last year's ashes, and stock up on new wood for the winter. Have the chimney cleaned once a year as well.

**buy winter essentials** 

The snow and ice will be here before you know it, and you don't want to wait until the first storm of the year to buy your snow removal gear and salt. You'll be prepared when the initial flakes come down, and you won't have to vie for the last shovel on the shelf at the hardware store.

**refresh a drab room** 

When you get bored with the look of a corner, a room, your whole house, it's easy to think that you have to make a lot of big changes or spend a ton of money to make any part of your home look fresh, new, and different. You don't. You just have to get creative with what you've already got.

**focus on fall** 

Try to do one fall-themed activity this month. Either go apple-picking, take a walk amongst colorful foliage, go trick-or-treating on Halloween, or even just rake some leaves in your own yard. Just enjoy being outside on crisp Autumn days!

**haul out the humidifier** 

If your home gets dry add some much-needed moisture. Humidity makes a house more comfortable and can help make the air feel warmer, even when the thermostat is set to lower temperatures.