

september home checklist

repair your favorite clothing 

Sweaters will make an appearance soon. Did you shove your old ones in the back of your closet before dry cleaning, de-pilling them, or mending any holes? If so, drag them back out and give them a good inspection. Now, what do they need?

layer your living space 

When you first start feeling the hit of cool air, store your linens and pillows and bring out the throw blankets for the sofa. If you swap your curtains every season, now's a good time to hang the velvet or heavier cotton.

vacuum your upholstery 

Now that windows are likely shut, you need to think more about fresh air. Vacuum your upholstery, tackling both under the cushions, and the fabric itself. If you're worried about wear and tear, place a "filter" over the nozzle to prevent delicate fabric from getting sucked up into the machine.

remove or cover your a/c unit 

Once temperatures are consistently cooler, either remove your window units (if you have space to store them) or cover and insulate them while they're not in use over the winter. Store any hardware in a labeled plastic bag taped to each unit.

start weatherizing 

Get a jump on air leaks by winterizing all your doors and windows. Amp up your home's efficiency and DIY a draft snake, install weather stripping on the exterior doors, and caulk any windows. If you're a homeowner, take storm windows out of storage and clean them and wash screens before storing them.

bring your plants indoors 

Some plants won't survive outside once temperatures begin to drop, so start now to mitigate the shock of moving. Plan ahead for a seamless transition, pick a date, and make sure you have a special spot they'll love in their new home. If you're a renter, this might mean finding a new place away from cold windows.

vacuum and clean baseboard heaters, returns and grates 

Your heat's not on but it will be soon. Give your heating system a dry run, and clean all the baseboards, radiators, and returns of dust and dirt. Get a professional in to inspect and maintain the furnace. And don't forget to swap out your furnace filter!

clean up your garden 

After a long summer of gardening, take advantage of cooler temps and do a little outdoor maintenance. Cut back your perennials, think about planting bulbs, remove dead plants and weeds, compost your soil, and prepare for spring.

dream big 

Researching is often the best part of major projects — it's before the actual work begins when everything is about possibility. Let yourself indulge in a little fantasy, all the while taking notes and planning your next DIY, home renovation, trip, or any other major project.

stop neglecting your bedroom 

You'll soon be burrowed under the covers and not wanting to leave your bed, so cast a critical eye around your sleeping space. Are you happy with your linens? Bring out your coziest sheets and blankets and, while the bed is naked, take a minute or two to rotate and/or flip your mattress. Dusting underneath the mattress is never a bad idea.