

Fall Home Maintenance: A Worthy Investment

Beaver County – With the weather starting to cool down after a summer heat wave, fall is the perfect time for homeowners to begin routine maintenance.

“Maintenance is an important part of being a homeowner,” said Beaver County Association of Realtors® President Barbara Cardinale. “Regularly maintaining your home keeps it safe and comfortable, but it can also increase efficiency, prevent major costly repairs and preserve your home’s value.”

For Pennsylvanians, fall maintenance can be especially vital. Homeowners should prepare their homes for cold temperatures, ice, snow and other winter weather ahead of time to prevent and mitigate winter damage.

Inspect and clean gutters and downspouts to prevent blockages, especially once the leaves start falling. Check your roof and chimney for damaged shingles and potential fire hazards. Remember to also inspect and tune up your heating system, seal gaps and cracks to prevent drafts, check for leaks in your plumbing and test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Outside, rake leaves, mulch flower beds, store away outdoor furniture and disconnect garden hoses. It’s also a good idea to trim overgrown bushes or trees that may pose a risk during winter storms. Check your driveway and walkways for cracks or damage that could worsen with freeze-thaw cycles as well.

When budgeting for home maintenance expenses, a general rule of thumb is to set aside 1%-4% of your home’s value each year. Having a dedicated maintenance fund can help homeowners plan accordingly and prevent the financial stress of maintaining a home, especially if unexpected costs arise.

“Although homeowners may be hesitant to spend additional money on maintaining their homes, it’s a crucial and worthy investment,” Cardinale shared. “Properly maintaining your home ensures comfortable and secure living for years to come.”

The Beaver County Association of Realtors® is a trade/professional association that serves more than 650 members in Beaver County and the surrounding area.