

FALL HOME CHECKLIST

What to check before winter hits

A little attention in the fall can save you from leaks, ice damage, and emergency repairs once the snow starts. Work through this list over a weekend or two and check off each item as you go.

! Safety first: For anything on the roof, stay on the ground. Leave the climbing to the pros.

ROOF

- ☐ **Shingles.** Scan for missing, cracked, or curling shingles. Do this from the ground rather than climbing up.
- ☐ **Flashing.** Check around chimneys, skylights, and vents for gaps or lifting.
- ☐ **Moss, algae, or dark streaks.** They hold moisture that can freeze and cause damage.
- ☐ **Valleys and corners.** Clear leaves and debris from the spots where they collect.
- ☐ **Attic.** On a sunny day, look for daylight coming through, water stains, or damp insulation.
- ☐ **Last winter's leaks.** Note any spot that leaked before. It will likely leak again.

TIP Trace the edge of any ceiling stain with a pencil. If the stain grows past the line, it's still leaking.

GUTTERS & DRAINAGE

- ☐ **Clean at the right time.** Clear gutters and downspouts after most leaves have fallen, not before.
- ☐ **Test the flow.** Run water through downspouts to make sure they drain freely.
- ☐ **Check the hold.** Sagging or loose sections won't handle the weight of ice.
- ☐ **Direct water away.** Downspouts should empty away from the foundation, ideally 4 to 6 feet out.
- ☐ **Look for old ice dam damage.** Bent gutters, stained fascia, or peeling paint near the eaves.

TREES & YARD

- ☐ **Overhanging branches.** Trim limbs over the roof. Snow and ice make them heavier and more likely to break.
- ☐ **Dead or weak limbs.** Remove those near the house, driveway, or power lines. Leave big jobs to an arborist.
- ☐ **Leaves at the foundation.** Rake them away from the house and out of window wells.

SIDING & EXTERIOR

- ☐ **Panels.** Look for cracks, gaps, or loose siding where moisture or pests can get in.
- ☐ **Caulking.** Check around windows and doors. Reseal where it's cracked or pulling away.
- ☐ **Trim.** Peeling paint or soft spots can be early signs of rot.
- ☐ **Entry points.** Seal gaps where pipes, wires, or vents enter the house. Mice move indoors in fall.

HEAT LOSS & ICE DAMS

- ☐ **Attic insulation and ventilation.** Warm attics melt snow that refreezes at the eaves.
- ☐ **Weatherstripping.** Replace worn strips on doors and windows.

WINTER PREP

- ☐ **Supplies.** Stock up on ice melt, shovels, and a roof rake before the first storm, when stores run out.
- ☐ **Your contacts.** Know who to call for roof snow removal or emergency repairs before you need them.
- ☐ **Baseline photos.** Photograph your roof and exterior now. They're a record if you ever file an insurance claim.

AROUND THE REST OF THE HOUSE

These items aren't services we offer at Adam Quenneville Roofing & Siding, but they're just as important to handle before winter.

PLUMBING & OUTDOOR SYSTEMS

- ☐ **Outdoor faucets.** Shut off and drain outdoor faucets and irrigation lines.
- ☐ **Garden hoses.** Disconnect and store them.
- ☐ **Exposed pipes.** Insulate pipes in the garage, crawl space, or basement.

HEATING & SAFETY

- ☐ **Heating system.** Schedule a furnace or boiler service.
- ☐ **Chimney.** Have it inspected and cleaned if you use a fireplace or wood stove.
- ☐ **Detectors.** Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and replace batteries.
- ☐ **Exhaust vents.** Make sure dryer, furnace, and water heater vents aren't blocked. Know where they are so you can keep them clear of snow.

FOUND SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT?

Whether it's a lifted shingle, a sagging gutter, or a ceiling stain that keeps growing, we're happy to take a look and give you an honest answer.

CALL US

(413) 536-5955

Adam Quenneville Roofing & Siding

NOTES Anything you spotted, plus dates, photos taken, and who you called
