



LITTLE HOUSE ON THE CORNER

AUTUMN HOME MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

HOUSE & GARAGE

Fireplace

Make sure your fireplace is ready to use when the temperatures drop. Give it a good clean and order your logs or coal so that you have enough supplies for the winter.

Chimney

Having your chimney swept is vital as a poorly maintained chimney can be extremely dangerous and even invalidate your home insurance. Always be safe and get your local chimney sweep to come around at least yearly (or more if you use your fireplace a lot).

Check smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers

You should have at least one detector close to your boiler along with additional ones if you have fireplaces.

Now is also a good time to give your smoke detectors a test, too. Ideally, you should do these checks multiple times a year to make sure you are as safe as possible.

If you have a fire extinguisher make sure that it's service is up to date, too.

Switch your energy supplier

Switching your supplier can save you a lot of money so it's worth doing your research!

Check your heating

Check the water pressure on your heating system and check when you had your last service. An up to date to date service will give you peace of mind and help avoid any unpleasant surprises when the temperature drops. Yearly services can even extend the life of your heating system!

Bleed your radiators

Air in your radiators will reduce their efficiency and performance. You can easily get hold of a radiator key at any DIY store and letting the air out of your radiators is a job that only takes a couple of minutes to do!

Check for draughts around your windows, doors or skirting boards

Not only are draughts unpleasant, they can also increase your heating costs by a huge amount. According to **Historic England**, minimising draughts in older homes can save you about 15-20% energy which will not only help the environment but your purse, too.

Make sure to heat your home correctly

Along with making sure that your home is insulated and that your heating is working as efficiently as possible it's also worth considering adjusting the temperature in your home slightly. According to the **Energy Saving Trust**, just lowering the temperature in your home by 1°C can save a whopping £60 a year per person!

Check your air bricks

In older properties, air bricks are important to keep an airflow under the suspended floor of your house. The circulating air ensures that damp air doesn't sit in any voids which could otherwise cause timber to rot.

Make sure that your air bricks are clean and that nothing is blocking them.

Check your pointing

Any broken mortar should be repaired as soon as possible to avoid any moisture getting into your walls. When it freezes the moisture expands which can cause severe damage to your brickwork and walls. Make sure that all of your pointing is firm and intact without any cracks to avoid any problems.

Check your roof

Don't just check your gutters, give your roof a once over, too. Check if you have any loose or broken slates. The earlier you spot any problems, the easier and cheaper they will be to get repaired!

And before you ask, no, I'm not suggesting you climb on your roof! Just stand back and look up. Use binoculars if necessary and also inspect the inside of your roof from the loft. Are there any discolourations or damp patches? Does your flashing look okay with everything still in place?

3 QUICK AUTUMN PROJECTS TO TRY

- *Build A DIY Bug Hotel* •
- *3 Easy DIY Outdoor Lanterns* •
- *Insulate Your Loft* •

Outdoor Projects

We've tackled countless outdoor projects over the years and have tried everything from building a log store, laying a gravel driveway to replacing our garage roof! Click here to see all of our outdoor projects!

GARDEN & OUTDOORS

Protect your plants

Place your less hardy plants in a greenhouse, bring them inside or cover them to protect them in the cold weather.

Turn off outdoor taps, drain pipes & empty hoses

To ensure water doesn't freeze and burst your pipes!

Check Gutters

Make sure that there are no leaves in your gutters and double-check that any drainage pipes are clear, too.

Use a garden hose to check that any water can run off easily and that your downpipes are clear.

Clean and bring in or cover your garden furniture

Give your garden furniture a thorough clean before covering it with an outdoor furniture cover or storing it somewhere safe for the winter.

Make your lawn happy

Autumn is the perfect time of year to get your garden looking great and ready for the next year. Give your grass a good rake to remove some of the dead grass and moss that can prevent water and fertiliser getting through to the roots and soil.

Then, aerate it either by hand with a garden fork or (depending on the size of your lawn) with a scarifier.

The last step is to apply some autumn lawn feed. Make sure to use a feed that's specifically designed for the autumn, as these feeds include phosphates that will protect the grass in icy conditions.

Trim back lawn edges

Give your lawn one last mow but don't cut it shorter than 5 cm as you want the grass to still be long enough to protect the roots of the grass from frost.

Plant spring bulbs

Now's the time ideal time to plant bulbs so that you have a beautiful spring garden.

Cut back hedges

How much you cut your hedge back now will depend on the type of planting you have but a little trim and tidy is always a good idea.

Clean your lawnmower and store it for the winter

When you've finished giving your lawn a last mow, it's time to pack it away for the winter. Give it a good clean with some WD40 and then store it somewhere dry and safe.

Clean & store your BBQ

Now that the bbq season is over, give your bbq a thorough clean and store it so that it's ready to use next year.

Clean your decking

Spray down your decking and remove any dirt, moss and debris.

Clean your garden tools and store them

Clean the tools you'll no longer be using with some WD40 and store them safely for the winter.

Check your drains

Lift the grate and make sure that everything is clear. If there is a blockage or some visible dirt, remove it.

Check or install outdoor lighting

Nobody wants to end up in the dark when taking out the rubbish. Lighting with a movement sensor works really well and can help save energy as it only comes on when you really need it.

Fill your bird feeder and help your local wildlife

There are lots of things you can do to help your local wildlife around this time of year. Put up a bird feeder, **build a bug hotel** and create leaf-mould piles for hedgehogs and insects.

Get In Touch!

*We'd love to hear from you! Do you have any questions? Would you like some DIY advice or would you just like to say hello?
Then drop us a line at general@littlehouseonthecorner.com!*

