

Seasonal Home Safety Checklist

The Twice-a-Year Walkthrough That Keeps a Senior's Home Safe

Do this walkthrough every spring and every fall, ideally together. Most of it costs nothing; the rest is a short list for a trusted handyperson.

Every visit, any season

| | Check |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms: test buttons, replace batteries twice a year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Path from bed to bathroom is lit (night lights count) and completely clear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Loose rugs removed or taped; extension cords out of walking paths |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Stair railings solid on BOTH sides; no loose steps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Grab bars in tub/shower anchored into studs (towel bars do not count) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Water heater set to 49°C / 120°F or lower (scald prevention) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Furnace filter changed (every 3 months) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Expired medications returned to the pharmacy |

Fall, before the first freeze

| | Task |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Snow removal arranged and CONFIRMED in writing before the end of October |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ice melt / sand bucket placed by each exterior door |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Eavestroughs cleaned; downspouts directed away from walkways (ice patches) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Furnace serviced; carbon monoxide alarm near sleeping areas confirmed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Exterior handrails checked after the ground shifts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Outdoor taps shut off and drained |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Motion-sensor light over the main entrance works |

Spring

| | Task |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Walkways inspected for frost heave and trip edges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dryer vent cleaned (lint fires are real) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Window screens on; windows open and close without force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Air conditioning tested BEFORE the first heat wave |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Deck and porch boards checked for rot and loose nails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Roof eyeballed from the ground; note missing shingles for the handyman list |

The handyman list

| Task | Who / quote | Done |
|------|-------------|------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
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Hiring help? Anyone working at the home should carry liability insurance and, if they have workers, workplace coverage (WSIB in Ontario). Ask before they start, not after something breaks.