

Fall Home Checklist for the Bay Area

Our rainy season usually starts in late October. A free weekend now saves a lot of headaches in January. Stick this on the fridge and check things off as you go.

Before the first big rain

Mid-October

- ☐ **Clean gutters & downspouts**
Fall leaves plus the first storm is when overflows happen.
- ☐ **Point downspouts away from the house**
Extensions that carry water 3–5 ft from the foundation are cheap insurance.
- ☐ **Walk the roof line**
Look for cracked or missing shingles, lifted flashing, and debris in valleys.
- ☐ **Clear the storm drain out front**
A leaf-clogged drain floods the street and driveway. Rake it into your green cart.
- ☐ **Check that soil slopes away from the house**
Low spots against the foundation collect water all winter.

Water & yard

October

- ☐ **Switch your sprinkler timer to fall**
Cut watering back now and turn it off once the rains are steady.
- ☐ **Plant now, not in spring**
Fall is the best time to plant California natives. Winter rain does the watering.
- ☐ **Look up water-saving rebates**
Fremont, Newark & Union City: Alameda County Water District (ACWD). Other cities: your local water district.

Fire weather & outages

Through Nov.

- ☐ **Clear dry leaves within 5 ft of the house**
Fall is still fire season in the Bay Area, especially on windy days.
- ☐ **Update your PG&E outage alerts**
Make sure your phone and email are current for Public Safety Power Shutoff notices.
- ☐ **Charge your backups**
Phone power banks, flashlights, and a battery radio.
- ☐ **Know how to open the garage door by hand**
Find the red release cord before you need it.

Safety dates to circle

- ☐ **Thu, Oct 15: Great ShakeOut**
Practice Drop, Cover, and Hold On. Check that your water heater is strapped and you know where the gas shutoff is.
- ☐ **Sun, Nov 1: Clocks fall back**
Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and replace the batteries.

Inside the house

October–November

- ☐ **Replace the furnace filter**
And book a heating tune-up before the first cold snap.
- ☐ **Check weatherstripping**
Hold a hand by doors and windows on a breezy day. Feel a draft? Replace it.
- ☐ **Flip ceiling fans to clockwise**
Low speed pushes warm air back down.

General home maintenance tips. For roof, electrical, gas, or structural work, please use a licensed professional.



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