

Website Home Tips

1. January

Keep a multi-purpose fire extinguisher in the kitchen and on each floor of the house. Inspect and recharge if pressure is below the operating range. Review a fire escape plan with your household.

2. February

Install a programmable thermostat to regulate the temperature while you are sleeping or away from home. Use space heaters or fans in the most-used rooms instead of paying more to heat or cool the entire house.

3. March

Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. Keep appliances and their power cords away from water or heat sources. Do not place cords under carpets or rugs or rest any furniture on them.

4. April

Clean and lubricate hinges, locks, and moving parts in window and door hardware once a year to maintain ease of use. Keep furniture, and other items that children might climb, away from windows for safety.

5. May

Test the auto-reverse functions on your garage door monthly. Familiarize yourself with the door's release system in case of emergency or power failure.

6. June

Cut grass no shorter than 3" and never more than 1/3 of a blade. Mow in the morning or evening. Deep water in the morning, is better for your grass than frequent, shallow watering.

7. July

Protect your home when you're on vacation. Lock doors and windows, set timers on lights, and have mail and newspapers stopped or picked up by a neighbor. Unplug electrical devices vulnerable to power surges and shut off the water main supply. For energy savings, set back your thermostat and close all blinds and curtains.

8. August

Be prepared for weather-related emergencies common to your region such as tornados, earthquake or hurricanes. Organize survival kits and review an emergency escape or protection plan with your household.

9. September

Trim trees and remove dead branches. Bad weather can cause weak limbs to break, damaging property or causing injury. Use care and consult a professional tree service for large jobs.

10. October

Reduce energy costs by lowering the thermostat on your hot water heater to 120 degrees F. Make sure the caulking around windows and exterior doors is adequate to reduce heat or cooling loss.

11. November

Use Daylight Savings Time as a reminder to replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Clean them to, by removing covers and wiping with a damp cloth. Vacuum the interiors.

12. December

Keep exhaust fans clean to optimize their efficiency. Vacuum bathroom fan grilles and clean or replace kitchen range hood filters. Keeping the hood free of cooking grease also deters stovetop fires.