FALL HOME RESET CHECKLIST

Pacific Northwest Edition • Seasonal Maintenance, Rain Prep & Moisture Control

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Pacific Northwest Fall Focus: Heavy Rain, Moss & Freeze Prevention

In Oregon and Washington, fall maintenance centers on **continuous water management**. Clearing pine needles from roof valleys, treating moss, keeping drainage clear, and sealing crawlspaces before prolonged rain sets in protects foundations and prevents costly moisture damage.

1. Roof, Moss & Gutter Drainage (Essential for PNW Rains)

- [ ] **Clear Gutters & Pine Needles (Pass 1 of 2)**
  Clean all gutters and downspout elbows of maple leaves and fir needles; flush with a hose to ensure unobstructed flow before heavy storms.
- [ ] **Inspect Roof Valleys & Remove Moss**
  Gently brush off moss buildup (avoid power washing asphalt shingles) and apply zinc/eco-safe moss treatment before damp winter weather.
- [ ] **Check Downspout Extensions & Storm Drains**
  Ensure downspout extensions direct water at least 4–6 feet away from your foundation wall and keep perimeter yard drains free of silt.
- [ ] **Trim Overhanging Tree Limbs**
  Cut back branches hanging over rooflines, chimneys, or power lines to prevent storm breakages and reduce moss-inducing shade.
- [ ] **Inspect Flashing, Chimney Cap & Skylights**
  Examine flashing around vents, skylights, and chimney mortar crowns for deteriorated seals that leak during persistent rain.

2. Exterior Plumbing, Decking & Crawlspace Prep

- [ ] **Winterize Hose Bibs & Disconnect Hoses**
  Disconnect, drain, and store all garden hoses; shut off interior isolation valves and install insulated foam spigot covers.
- [ ] **Blow Out In-Ground Sprinkler System**
  Hire a technician or use compressed air to purge all water from underground irrigation lines before the first hard freeze.
- [ ] **Inspect Crawlspace, Sump Pump & Vents**
  Check crawlspace vapor barrier for pooling water, verify sump pump float/switch operation, and close foundation vents after first frost.
- [ ] **Wash & Protect Decks / Walkways Against Algae**
  Pressure wash or treat wooden decks, stone steps, and brick pavers with anti-slip wash to eliminate slippery green algae film.
- [ ] **Inspect Exterior Siding, Caulking & Trim**
  Reseal cracked caulking around window frames, exterior door trim, and siding penetrations to block wind-driven rain.

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Interior Deep Reset, Heating Tune-Up & Storm Preparedness

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3. Heating, Ventilation & Fireplace Safety

- [ ] **Service Furnace / Heat Pump & Replace Filter**
  Schedule annual HVAC technician servicing; replace furnace filter with a fresh MERV-8 to MERV-11 filter (or clean ductless mini-split screens).
- [ ] **Clean Fireplace Flue & Chimney**
  Have a certified sweep inspect and clean wood stoves or fireplaces of creosote buildup before lighting the season's first fire.
- [ ] **Reverse Ceiling Fans (Clockwise Rotation)**
  Switch fan direction to clockwise on low speed to draw cool air up and gently push warm air down into living areas.
- [ ] **Vacuum Baseboard Heaters & Supply Vents**
  Deep vacuum dust and pet hair from heating registers, radiator fins, and floor supply grilles to maximize heat flow and air quality.
- [ ] **Clean Clothes Dryer Vent Exhaust Duct**
  Disconnect and brush lint from the entire exterior dryer exhaust line to prevent house fires and improve drying efficiency.

4. Cozy Home Reset & Seasonal Deep Clean

- [ ] **Transition Bedding & Wash Heavy Blankets**
  Launder lightweight summer sheets; bring out washed wool blankets, heavier duvets, down comforters, and flannel bedding.
- [ ] **Set Up Entryway 'Rain & Mud' Drop Zone**
  Place heavy-duty rubber boot trays, umbrella stand, coat hooks, and wash washable mud mats for wet shoes and rainy dog walks.
- [ ] **Deep Clean Kitchen Pantry & Restock Staples**
  Check canned goods expiration dates, wipe shelves, and restock baking essentials, hearty grains, teas, and winter soup staples.
- [ ] **Wipe Window Sills, Tracks & Glass**
  Clean interior and exterior window panes to let in maximum natural daylight during shorter Pacific Northwest fall days.

5. Safety Alarms & PNW Winter Storm Readiness

- [ ] **Test Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors**
  Test all alarm units, replace batteries when clocks change for Daylight Saving Time, and verify units are under 10 years old.
- [ ] **Restock Power Outage & Emergency Kit**
  Ensure working flashlights, portable USB phone battery banks, fresh batteries, non-perishable food, and 1 gallon of water per person/day.
- [ ] **Check Fire Extinguishers & Generator**
  Verify fire extinguisher gauges are in the green zone, inspect generator oil/fuel levels, and test run before winter windstorms.

Seasonal Vendor Contacts & Notes (HVAC Tech, Chimney Sweep, Gutter Cleaner):