

Home checklist for the fall season

The fall season offers homeowners a final chance to prepare for the upcoming cold weather and even some of the easiest chores can save you big dollars on your energy bills.

Angie's List (www.angieslist.com), the nation's leading provider of consumer ratings on local

service companies, contacted its highly rated providers to put together a list the most important fall chores for homeowners who don't want to get snowed by Ol' Man Winter.

Angie's top fall chores:

* Service your heating system: As much as 80 percent of emergency

calls answered by heating specialists are the result of improper maintenance. Schedule an appointment soon so you can beat the rush and help avoid a breakdown in the middle of a freeze.

* **Check and replace filters:** Fall is also the perfect time to check your furnace filters and replace

if necessary. Efficient operation distributes heat better and cuts your energy costs. Plus, it's an inexpensive and easy task.

* **Protect your pipes:** Have your plumbing looked at and water lines insulated. Cleaning all lines can help remove clogs. Clogs cause back ups, which can freeze,

then cause the weakening of pipes and bursting. Wrap your pipes with insulation designed for plumbing. In many situations, insulation will be all you need to protect your pipes.

* **Drain water from your water heater:** You can improve your water heater's efficiency by 50 percent by draining sediment build up from the holding tank.

* **Add insulation:** This is one of the lowest-cost options for improving the energy efficiency of your home. The proper amount of insulation you should have depends on the climate you live in. Obviously, the colder the weather, the more you need. Look in your attic, if you see exposed two-by four's, you are due for more insulation.

* **Seal drafts:** Caulk, seal and weather-strip where drafts are detected. Walk through your home with a lit stick of incense or a candle. Drafts will pull the smoke that direction, making it easier to determine where the cold air is seeping in.

* **Schedule a chimney sweep:** Creosote build-up can lead to a chimney fire.

* **Check your gutters:** Gutter blockage of dead leaves and other muck can cause serious water damage. If they are clogged, hire a professional for a cleaning. If they are not clogged, check again after the leaves have fallen.

* **Rake up the leaves:** Fallen leaves will deprive your grass of crucial sunlight during the fall months. Leaves can also accumulate and get wet, leading to mold growth and a breeding ground for pests.

* **Vehicle inspection:** Summer travel can take a toll on your car. Schedule a maintenance check with your mechanic so it will be in good working order to endure the long winter months. If you haven't packed your trunk with an emergency kit, now is the time.

Angie's List is where thousands of consumers share their ratings and reviews on local contractors and companies in more than 340 different categories. Currently, 750,000 consumers across the U.S. rely on Angie's List to help them find the right contractor or company for the job they need done. Members have unlimited access to the list via Internet or phone; receive the award-winning Angie's List magazine, which includes articles on home improvement and maintenance, consumer trends and scam alerts; and they can utilize the Angie's List complaint resolution service. Get more information about Angie's List at <http://www.angieslist.com> Read Angie's blog at <http://www.angiehicksblog.com>

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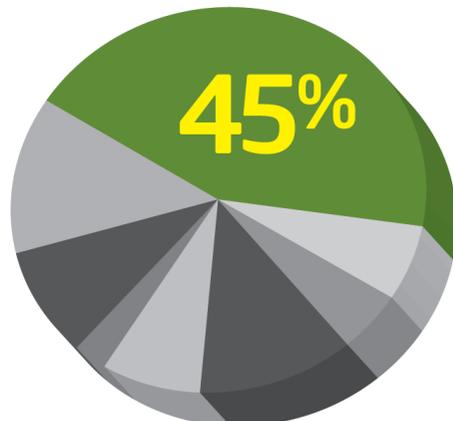
"My home never feels comfortable, but I don't see any problems."



In home diagram shows common places where energy is lost and can be fixed easily



Infiltrator Blower Door Test Instrument.



Up to 45% of your utility bills goes towards heating and cooling.

What will the test show me?

Our new Infrared technology will show you exactly where your home is wasting money and how we can help you make your home more comfortable year round. Bright areas show up problems usually only seen on your ever increasing utility bills. Heat loss or gain through windows, walls and ceilings indicate a poorly insulated home. A well air sealed and insulated home will increase the overall comfort of your home, even those difficult areas like the second floor bedrooms. Understanding what your home is trying to tell you is the first step to creating a safer, healthier, more energy efficient home.

Why is Air Sealing important?

A house that leaks air costs more to heat and cool because your system has to work harder and longer to "condition" the air in your home. Sealing air leaks will also help keep dust, mold spores and other air borne contaminants out of your home.

We can help you if:

- Your utility bills are high.
- You want a more energy efficient home.
- Your temperature varies from room to room.
- You have moisture problems.

To Schedule An Energy Audit
Contact Matt Eckerle Today!
Your ProEnergy Consultant of Ohio