

Autumn and Winter Home Checklist

Get ahead of the cold, so a frost or a storm does not turn into a burst pipe or a heating failure on the coldest night of the year.

The jobs that stop a cold snap becoming an expensive one. Best done before the first hard frost, not after it.

HEATING

- ☐ Service the boiler, furnace or heat pump before the heating season
- ☐ Bleed radiators and check system pressure
- ☐ Sweep the chimney and check the flue and cowl
- ☐ Check the oil or fuel level and order early
- ☐ Test the heating on a cold morning, not on the first cold night

WATER AND FROST

- ☐ Drain and isolate outside taps; disconnect and store hoses
- ☐ Check pipe lagging in the loft, garage and unheated spaces
- ☐ Insulate the cold water tank and any exposed pipework
- ☐ Locate the stopcock again and check it still turns
- ☐ Run rarely-used taps and flush unused toilets to keep traps sealed

OUTSIDE

- ☐ Clear gutters after the last of the leaves have fallen
- ☐ Clear drains and gullies
- ☐ Cut back branches that could come down on the roof or the supply cable
- ☐ Secure fence panels, gates and anything that can blow about
- ☐ Check the roof again after the first storm

SAFETY

- ☐ Test every smoke and carbon monoxide alarm and note the date
- ☐ Check extinguisher pressure and service date
- ☐ Check torches, batteries and candles are where you can find them
- ☐ Check the loft hatch seal and insulation depth

Notes and anything specific to yours