

The 15-Minute Seasonal Home Check

Four short lists for four seasons, so the small jobs around your home do not pile up.



FIND WHAT YOU NEED

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START YOUR SEASONAL HOME CHECK

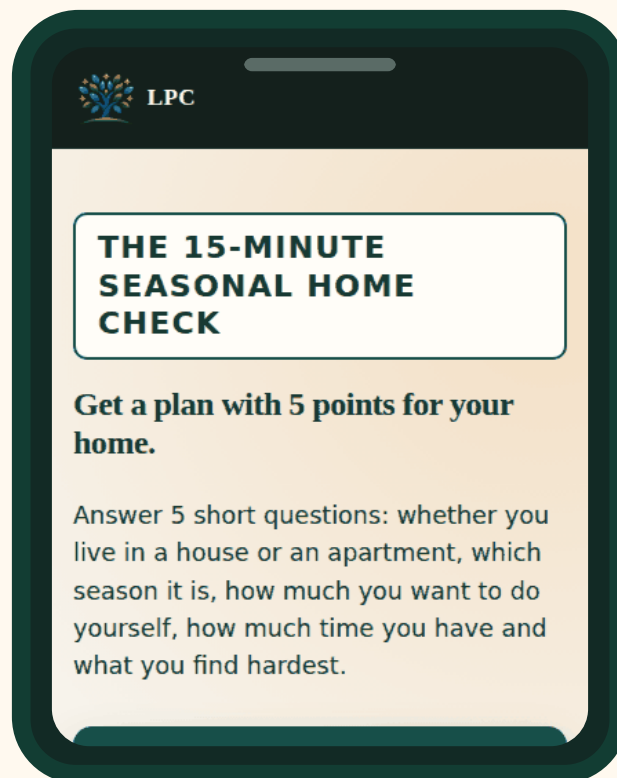
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Quick Route: Start with the Seasonal Home Check Companion App



If the small jobs around your home keep slipping, the Seasonal Home Check Companion App can help you start now.

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You answer 5 questions about your home, and the app gives you a plan with 5 points for the season you are in. The points follow the same order as this guide: smoke alarms, air and filters, doors and windows, water and appliances, and outside.

Save favorites and add personal notes, so your app is tailored to your preferences.

You can create 2 complete personalized plans free.

Read the Important Note About Home Check Rules and Safety first. Then use the app for a plan, or keep reading and learn the method at your own pace.

Open the Seasonal Home Check Companion App

<https://homecheck.lifeperksclub.com>

A GENTLE NOTE

Important Note About Home Check Rules and Safety



This guide gives everyday advice about checking your home in a calm order, one season at a time. It is general information. It does not replace your

CONTINUED

equipment manuals, your landlord, a professional or the official pages listed at the end.

It does not promise that your home will be safe. It does not promise that a problem will be found or avoided. It gives no repair instructions and no advice about electrical, gas or plumbing work. It gives no advice about insurance, a lease or taxes. It gives no rules for any state or city.

The guide leans on one official page for smoke alarms, from the U.S. Fire Administration. Whenever the guide says what that page says, it says "according to the U.S. Fire Administration". It also looks at the Energy Saver pages of the U.S. Department of Energy, but only for their topics.

CONTINUED

If you smell gas or see smoke, that is not a task for this guide. Call your local emergency number. This line is the guide's own safety note.

Do not climb on a roof. Do not use a ladder for this guide's tasks. If a job is too high, too heavy or too hard, ask for help or call a professional. If you are not sure about a problem, ask a professional.

This guide and the companion app never ask you for a Social Security number, an account number or a password. Please do not type those into either one.

[START HERE](#)

Why Home Upkeep Gets Forgotten Between Seasons



The small jobs around a home are easy to forget. The smoke alarm gives a short beep, the filter has been in for a while, and nobody remembers when anyone last looked at it.

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Each job is small. The trouble is that no one owns the list. Nothing in the calendar says that today is the day to look at the doors, the faucets or the yard. So the jobs wait until something makes noise.

This guide does not make the jobs smaller. It does something simpler. It gives you one short list for each season and a short time to do it in. That is the whole idea.

You do not need to be handy to use it. If you rent, many jobs belong to your landlord, and a list helps you notice what to tell them. If you own, a list helps you remember what to ask a professional.

THE 4 SEASONS OF A SEASONAL

The 4 Seasons of a Seasonal Home Check



A seasonal home check has 4 short lists, one for each season: spring, summer, fall and winter. This is the guide's own idea. It is not an official calendar.

CONTINUED

Spring. The house wakes up. This is a good time to look at what the cold months left behind.

Summer. Windows are open and the yard is busy. This is a good time to look at air, shade and anything outside.

Fall. The days get shorter. This is a good time to get the house ready for the cold.

CONTINUED

Winter. You spend more time indoors. This is a good time to look at the things inside that you use every day.

The lists are not the same, but they share one part. Every season starts with smoke alarms. After that, the list follows the same 5 areas each time, so you always know where you are.

If you do not live somewhere with 4 clear seasons, use the names loosely. You can also do the check twice a year, or every 3 months. A season is only a reminder.

THE METHOD

Your 15-Minute Seasonal Home Check Task Dump



A task dump means writing down every home job you can think of, without sorting them. Set a timer for 15 minutes. This frame is the guide's own.

Take a piece of paper, or open the notes on your phone. Write one job per line. Do not put them in

CONTINUED

order. Do not worry about whether a job is big or small, or whether it is yours or your landlord's.

You can also look at the 5 areas. Ask: what is still open for smoke alarms? For air and filters? For doors and windows? For water and appliances? For outside?

When the timer rings, stop. You do not have to finish the list. A half list is still better than a list in your head.

Next to each line you may also write who the job belongs to. Write "me", "landlord" or "professional". You will use this when you sort.

THE METHOD

The 15-Minute Seasonal Home Check: Order of Steps



FOUR SEASONS - FOUR SHORT LISTS - 15 MINUTES EACH

Here is the order this guide suggests. It is the guide's own order. It is not from an official source, and you can change it to fit your home.

CONTINUED

1. **Smoke alarms first.** They are the one area with an official page, and they take only a few minutes to look at.
2. **Heating, cooling and filters second.** Write down what you see and what your equipment manual says to do.
3. **Doors, windows and weatherization third.** Walk the home and write down what you notice.
4. **Water, pipes and appliances fourth.** Look and listen. Write down drips, noises and anything that seems off.

CONTINUED

5. **Outside, gutters and yard last.** Look from the ground.
Write down what needs a professional.

You do not need to finish one area before you start the next one. But if you are not sure where to start, start at the top.

Take your task dump and look at it again. Next to each job, write the number of the area it belongs to. Then pick 3 jobs from area 1 or area 2, and do one of them today.

SEASONAL HOME CHECK

Seasonal Home Check: Smoke Alarms



Smoke alarms are the first area, because the U.S. Fire Administration has a page about them. This section tells you what that page says. It does not add to it, and it does not replace it.

CONTINUED

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, you should have smoke alarms in every bedroom and outside each sleeping area. It also says to have alarms on every level of the home, including the basement. It says alarms go on the ceiling or high on a wall.

It says interconnected alarms are a good idea, so that when one sounds, they all sound.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, you should test your alarms every month. It says to replace 9-volt batteries every year.

It says that hardwired alarms also have a battery backup, and that this battery is replaced every year. It says to replace the alarm itself 10 years from the date it was made.

CONTINUED

The page also says not to disable an alarm and not to take out the battery while you cook. If an alarm sounds when nothing is wrong, the page says to open a window and press the hush button.

The U.S. Fire Administration also says that you can contact your local fire department about no-cost or low-cost installation of alarms.

Now the guide's own part. At each seasonal check, stand under each alarm and write down: the room, whether you tested it and what date. You can write the date it was made if you can see it. If the alarm is too high for you to reach, ask someone to help.

If you rent, tell your landlord about any alarm that is missing, old or does not work.

SEASONAL HOME CHECK

Seasonal Home Check: Heating, Cooling and Filters



This section is the guide's own list. The U.S. Department of Energy has Energy Saver pages with topics such as heating and cooling. This guide only

CONTINUED

uses the topic as a heading. It gives no figures and no tips from that site.

What the guide can do is give you a short list of things to notice. Write down the answers. You do not have to fix anything.

- Do you know where your heating and cooling equipment is?

- Do you know where the filter is, and do you know what kind it is?

CONTINUED

- Do you remember when someone last looked at the filter?
- Do you have the manual, or do you know where to find it?
- Do the vents and returns look blocked by furniture or boxes?
- Is there a noise, a smell or a change that you have not mentioned to anyone?

If you cannot answer a question, write "ask" next to it. That is a complete answer for today.

Do not open, repair or adjust heating or cooling equipment yourself because of this guide. Call a professional for that.

SEASONAL HOME CHECK

Seasonal Home Check: Doors, Windows and Weatherization



This section is the guide's own list. The U.S. Department of Energy lists weatherization as one of its Energy Saver topics. This guide only uses that

CONTINUED

word as a heading. It gives no figures, no promises and no steps from that site.

Walk through the home with your note. At each door and window, ask these questions.

- Does it open and close easily?

- Does it lock?

CONTINUED

- Do you see a gap, a crack or a spot where it looks worn?

- Can you feel air or hear noise from outside when it is closed?

- Is there a mark, a stain or a soft spot nearby that you have not mentioned to anyone?

You do not have to answer every question for every window. Choose the ones you use most. Write the room and what you saw.

If a job needs a ladder or a tall reach, do not do it. Write it on the list for a professional.

SEASONAL HOME CHECK

Seasonal Home Check: Water, Pipes and Appliances



This section is the guide's own list. The U.S. Department of Energy has Energy Saver pages on topics such as water heating and water use, and on appliances. This guide only uses the topics as

CONTINUED

headings. It gives no figures and no tips from that site.

Water and appliances are about looking and listening. Do not take anything apart. Do not do plumbing, gas or electrical work. If something seems wrong, write it down and ask a professional.

Walk through the home with your note. At each sink, tub, shower and toilet, ask these questions.

- Do you see a drip, a stain or a damp spot?

CONTINUED

- Do you hear running water when nothing is on?
- Does the water drain slowly?
- Is there a smell that you have not mentioned to anyone?

At each large appliance, such as the water heater, the washer, the dryer, the refrigerator or the stove, ask: do you know where the manual is? Do you hear a noise that is new? Do you see a mark or a puddle?

If you smell gas, that is not a task for this guide. Call your local emergency number. This line is the guide's own safety note.

If you rent, write the things you notice and tell your landlord. A note with a date and a room is easy to send.

SEASONAL HOME CHECK

Seasonal Home Check: Outside, Gutters and Yard



This section is the guide's own list. The sources the guide opened give no rules for gutters, roofs, drains or yards, so this section gives none. It only gives you a way to look and to write things down.

CONTINUED

Walk around the outside of your home on the ground. Do not climb on a roof. Do not use a ladder. If you cannot see something from the ground, write "ask" and move on.

Ask these questions as you walk.

- Do the gutters look full, loose or crooked from where you stand?

- Do you see water pooling near the walls?

CONTINUED

- Do you see a crack, a loose board or a spot that looks worn?

- Are branches close to the roof or the walls?

- Are there steps, rails or paths that look unsafe?

- Do you see anything on the ground that should not be there?

For gutters, roofs and trees, ask a professional. This guide does not say how to clean, repair or trim them.

If you rent, tell your landlord about anything you see. If you live in a building with shared yards or walls, tell the person who manages them.

THE METHOD

Spring and Summer Home Check: A Short List



This is the guide's own short list for spring and summer. The U.S. Department of Energy site has a page of spring and summer tips. This guide did not use them, so everything below is the guide's own.

Set a timer for 15 minutes. Go in this order.

CONTINUED

1. **Smoke alarms.** Test each one. Write the date. Write the room of any alarm that is missing, old or does not work.
2. **Air and filters.** Find the filter. Write down what you find and what the manual says. Ask a professional if you are not sure.
3. **Doors and windows.** Open and close the ones you use most. Write down any that stick or do not lock.
4. **Water and appliances.** Look under the sinks. Listen for running water. Write down anything that seems off.
5. **Outside.** Walk around on the ground. Look at the gutters from where you stand. Write down what needs a professional.

If you want to use the app, answer the 5 questions and choose spring or summer. The app turns this list into a plan.

THE METHOD

Fall and Winter Home Check: A Short List



This is the guide's own short list for fall and winter. The Energy Saver site that this guide looked at has no fall or winter tips, so everything below is the

CONTINUED

guide's own. It does not come from an official source.

Set a timer for 15 minutes. Go in this order.

1. **Smoke alarms.** Test each one. Write the date. Write the room of any alarm that is missing, old or does not work.

2. **Air and filters.** Find the filter. Check your equipment manual or ask a professional what to do before the cold season.

CONTINUED

3. **Doors and windows.** Check the doors you use every day. Write down any that stick, do not lock or look worn.

4. **Water and appliances.** Look at the faucets, including any outside. Ask a professional or your manual what to do before cold weather.

5. **Outside.** Walk around on the ground. Look at the gutters from where you stand. Write down what needs a professional.

If you want to use the app, answer the 5 questions and choose fall or winter. The app turns this list into a plan.

SEASONAL HOME CHECK WITH

Seasonal Home Check With Kids, Pets or a Partner



With kids. Give a child one small job. A child can press the test button on an alarm while you stand next to them. A child can walk with you and say what they see. Keep it short and keep it light. Do not ask a child to climb, lift or touch any equipment.

CONTINUED

With pets. Pets may get nervous when an alarm sounds. Plan to test the alarm when you can keep the pet calm, or move the pet to another room first. Keep the pet away from open doors and from the yard while you walk around.

With a partner or housemates. Share the list. Each person takes one or two areas. You can also split by place: one person takes the inside and one takes the outside.

With someone who needs help. If you are helping a parent or a neighbor, go with them and write the list together. Do not do any work on their home that is not yours to do. Write down what needs a professional and offer to make the call.

In every case, say the plan out loud before you start. Say how long it will take and who does what.

STEP BY STEP

The Night Before You Do a Seasonal Home Check



The night before is easier when the list is short and the tools are close. This section is the guide's own plan. It only takes a few minutes.

Look at your calendar and choose a 15-minute slot for tomorrow. Write it down.

CONTINUED

Put a pen and a piece of paper, or your phone, where you will see them. If you want, print your list from the last season.

Put your equipment manuals in one place, if you know where they are. If you do not know where they are, add "find manuals" to your list. That is a good first job.

If you rent, find the name and number of your landlord or property manager. Write it at the top of the page.

If you plan to test smoke alarms, tell the others in your home. A short alarm sound can be loud. Tell them when it will happen.

STEP BY STEP

Seasonal Home Check Day: A One-Page Plan



A check day is easier with a one-page plan. Write it on a single sheet and keep it where you can reach it.

At the top. Write the date, the season and the time you will start and stop.

CONTINUED

Step 1: Smoke alarms (about 3 minutes). Walk to each alarm. Test it. Write the room and the date. Note any that are missing, old or not working.

Step 2: Air and filters (about 3 minutes). Find the equipment and the filter. Write what you see. Write what you need to ask.

Step 3: Doors and windows (about 3 minutes). Open and close the ones you use most. Write what sticks or does not lock.

CONTINUED**Step 4: Water and appliances (about 3 minutes).**

Look and listen at the sinks and appliances. Write what seems off.

Step 5: Outside (about 3 minutes). Walk around on the ground. Write what needs a professional or your landlord.

At the bottom. Write 3 lines: what I will do this week, what I will ask my landlord and what I will ask a professional.

When the time is up, stop. Do not start a new job. Put the page in a folder or take a photo of it.

THE METHOD

After a Seasonal Home Check: Your First 15 Minutes



When you finish the check, you do not have to fix everything. This section gives you a short start. The 15-minute frame is the guide's own.

CONTINUED

Look at your page. You may see three kinds of lines: jobs you can do yourself, jobs for your landlord and jobs for a professional.

Take the first 5 minutes to sort the lines into those three kinds. Use a pen to mark each one: "me", "landlord" or "pro".

Take the next 5 minutes to send one message. If you rent, write to your landlord with the room, the date and what you saw. If you own, write down one question for a professional. Keep the message short and calm.

CONTINUED

Take the last 5 minutes to choose one job you can do yourself, if there is one. It may be as small as writing down where the manuals are. Put it in your calendar.

Put the page where you can find it next season. A folder, a drawer or a photo on your phone all work. If you use the app, add a note that says "last checked" and the date.

If the check showed something that worries you, tell a professional. If it feels urgent, call your local emergency number. This is the guide's own safety note.

Then stop for the day.

HOME CHECK TASKS THAT GET

Home Check Tasks That Get Forgotten



Some jobs are easy to forget. This list is the guide's own set of reminders. It is not official, and some may not apply to you.

- The smoke alarm in the room you rarely use.

CONTINUED

- The alarm in the basement or on another level.
- The place where the manuals are.
- The name and number of your landlord or property manager.
- The filter that you have not looked at for a while.
- A door or window that sticks and that you work around.

CONTINUED

- The faucet that drips and that you have stopped hearing.

- The outside faucet.

- The gutters that you cannot see from inside.

- The shed, the garage or the storage room.

If you see a job here that you have not done, do not feel bad. These are the jobs that everyone forgets, because they do not make noise.

WHERE TO START

When Your Seasonal Home Check Falls Apart



Plans change. A busy week arrives. The timer rings and you have done one thing. This section is for those days. The ideas are the guide's own.

You ran out of time. Stop. Write down where you stopped. Do the rest in another 15 minutes.

CONTINUED

You skipped a season. It happens. Do the check for the current season. Do not try to catch up on the ones you missed.

You found too many jobs. Pick the three that matter most to you. Write the others on a list for later. Do not try to do them all.

You found something worrying. If it is smoke, gas or a danger, call your local emergency number.

CONTINUED

If it is not urgent, write it down and ask a professional. Do not try to repair it yourself because of this guide.

Your landlord does not answer. Write a second message with the date. Keep a copy. Ask again in a few days.

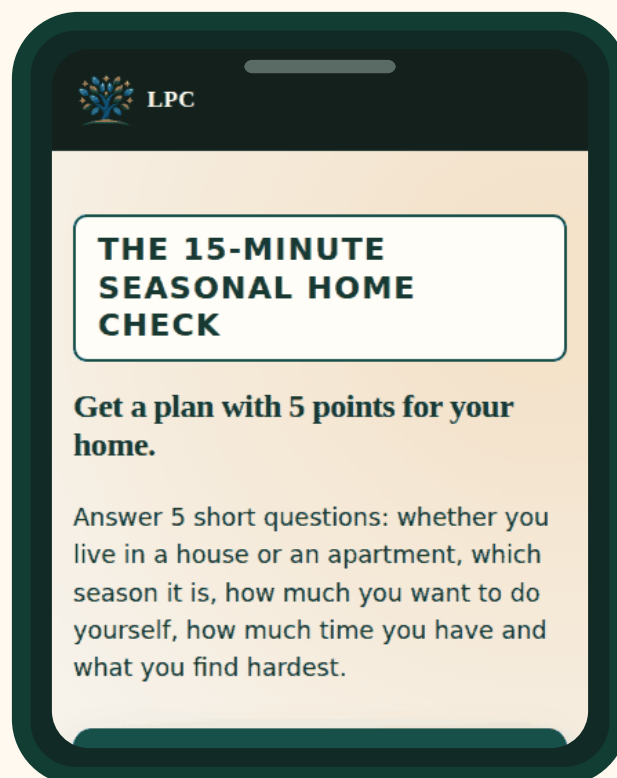
You do not feel like it. Do one thing: test one smoke alarm. Then stop. A small start counts.

OPTIONAL COMPANION APP

The Seasonal Home Check Companion App

This guide explains the method. The Seasonal Home Check Companion App turns it into a plan for your home and your season.

You answer 5 questions: whether you live in a house or an apartment, which season it is, how



CONTINUED

much you want to do yourself, how much time you have and what you find hardest. The app gives you a plan with 5 points: smoke alarms, air and filters, doors and windows, water and appliances, and outside.

The app gives no savings figures, no repair instructions and no promise that your home will be safe.

Save favorites and add personal notes, so your app is tailored to your preferences.

CONTINUED

You can add a note that says when you last checked each area.

You can create 2 complete personalized plans free. After that, a one-time unlock of \$9 keeps it yours. There is no subscription and no renewal.

The app never asks for a Social Security number, an account number or a password.

Open the Seasonal Home Check Companion App

<https://homecheck.lifeperksclub.com>

FINAL CHECKLIST

Final Checklist: The 15-Minute Seasonal Home Check



- ☐ I wrote down my home jobs in a 15-minute task dump.
- ☐ I sorted them into the 5 areas: smoke alarms, air and filters, doors and windows, water and appliances, and outside.
- ☐ I chose the list for the current season.

CONTINUED

- ☐ I tested my smoke alarms and wrote down the date.
- ☐ I found out where my equipment manuals are.
- ☐ I walked through the home and outside with my note.
- ☐ I marked each job "me", "landlord" or "pro".
- ☐ I sent one message or wrote down one question.
- ☐ I wrote the date of the next check on my calendar.
- ☐ I know that this guide does not promise a safe home, gives no repair instructions and gives no savings figures.

The phrase seasonal home check means one short sitting each season in which you walk through your home with a short list, so the small jobs get done before they pile up.

SOURCES

Sources Used for Seasonal Home Check Guidance

The statements about smoke alarms come from one U.S. government page. It was opened on October 7, 2026. Check the official page for the latest wording.

The Energy Saver pages of the U.S. Department of Energy were also opened on October 7, 2026. The guide uses only their topic names as headings. It uses no figures and no tips from that site.

The guide did not open any official page about filters, gutters, drains or water heaters. So it gives

CONTINUED

no rules, intervals or steps for them. For those, check your equipment manual or ask a professional.

The 4 seasons, the 5 areas, the order of steps, the 15-minute task dump, the short lists for spring, summer, fall and winter, the night before, the day and the first minutes after the check are our own suggestions. They are not official guidance.

This guide gives no savings figures, no repair instructions, no advice about electrical, gas or

CONTINUED

plumbing work, no advice about insurance, a lease or taxes and no rules for any state or city.

- U.S. Fire Administration (FEMA), Smoke Alarms: where to put alarms, testing, batteries and replacement.

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/home-fires/prepare-for-fire/smoke-alarms/>

- U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Saver: topic pages for heating and cooling, water heating and water use, weatherization and appliances.

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver>

JOIN THE EMAIL LIST

Get the next useful solution first.

New Mini Guides, Companion Apps and practical ideas go to your email list before anywhere else. Occasional, and free. You can unsubscribe at any time.

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