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# Fall HOME Care & RENOVATION Month



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## A house ready for winter

Autumn is the time to inspect your house before winter sets in. Have a look at the attic to check the condition of the insulation and to make sure that there are no air leaks. In fact, warm and humid air that escapes the house and penetrates the attic can cause condensation, ice dams on the roof, and water infiltration. There should be no holes, air leaks, or bypasses from the house to the attic. The attic should also be sufficiently insulated to prevent house heat from escaping. If your attic is well-sealed and well-insulated, it will remain cool and dry.

If your house is older, you may have to remove the insulation from between the joists, and, if necessary, remove the boards, in order to seal all gaps and holes. You can then add insulation. If your attic is not spacious enough to ensure that the perimeter of the floor is well insulated, install some deflectors or expanding styrofoam to prevent the insulation from blocking the air vents. You can then insulate the space between the deflector and the attic floor. Expanding foam is ideal because it seals as well as insulates. You can also have a self-sealing membrane installed under the shingles to prevent water from seeping through the roof.



*Install styrofoam deflectors to prevent the insulation from obstructing the air vents.*

Next, check for air leaking through the exterior walls of the house, particularly through the windows. To find the leaks, use a lit candle or a feather as you move around the areas you suspect may be letting air escape. Carefully caulk all leaks.

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