



CLUB NEWS

THE VOICE OF HOMESERVICE CLUB

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September CHECKLIST

As the warm days of summer fade to fall, homeowners are busy making their homes snug and comfortable for the winter ahead:

- Make an appointment to have the furnace cleaned and safety-checked. An annual cleaning and monthly filter changes will add up to savings on your heating bills.
- Improve the air quality in your home by having the ducts cleaned and the furnace humidifier checked and cleaned.
- Before you relax in front of a roaring fire this autumn, make sure that the fireplace is in safe working order. Check the firebox and have the chimney cleaned.
- Order your firewood this month.
- Have your home draft-proofed and save on energy bills this winter. Our heating professionals will inspect your home and repair weather-stripping and caulking.

SECURITY precautions guarantee peace of mind

As many as two million homes are burglarized in Canada every year and, according to Weiser Lock, roughly 80 per cent of thieves enter through a door.



Deadbolts, accompanied by a stylish entryset or a handleset, deliver maximum home security as long as you remember to put at least a deadbolt on every entrance door.

Here are a few more tips from Weiser Lock:

Q: If we are replacing our doors, what features should we consider for maximum security?

A: Many modern homes are built with standard-issue hollow doors and that means that the amount of security provided is minimal. Often, the only thing between a thief and your belongings is two thin sheets of plywood sandwiching a honeycomb frame. If your entranceways have hollow doors, you might think about replacing them with solid wood or metal doors at a minimum of 4.5 cm thick. Also: upgrade the door strike plate to a four-screw, heavy-duty model, with three-inch screws; choose doors without windows, without a mail slot, and with a 180-degree peephole.

Q: What security features should we choose for our locks?

A: Replace all standard fixtures with premium, heavy-duty, deadbolt locks with a one-inch throw bolt. A double-cylinder

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Greener GRASS

(NC)—A little extra effort invested this month will be rewarded with a beautiful lawn in the spring:

- Continue mowing, keeping grass to a height of 2-1/2 inches. Remember that leaving grass clippings on the lawn returns at least 25 per cent of nitrogen back to the soil.
- Remove debris and leaves from the lawn before that final cut. Lawns should be put to bed over the winter at the same height they are maintained over the summer.
- Winter-care fertilizers energize turf, producing a strong and healthy root system and ensuring that they emerge greener than ever when spring finally makes its appearance.



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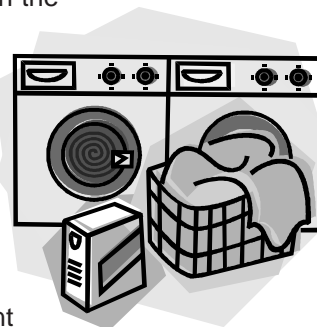
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Cutting down on laundry

As your clothes whirl around in your laundry machine, think about this: on average, Canadian families do about 392 loads of laundry per year, or about 7 loads per week. That's a lot of water and a lot of energy, which costs you money.

Choose a washer with a low EnerGuide rating

The EnerGuide rating shown on the EnerGuide label affixed to standard and compact washing machines provides consumers with an indication of how much energy, in kilowatt-hours-per-year, an appliance uses. This energy rating is based on standard tests developed by the Canadian Standards Association. Ninety-two per cent of the energy rating constitutes the energy that a water heater uses to heat the water for a wash load. The remaining eight per cent is used directly by the appliance.



Opt to wash or rinse with cold water

The EnerGuide energy consumption rating is based on heating water in an electric water-heating tank. If, for example, your washer consumes 900 kWh per year and you use all temperature settings at one time or another, your average cost per load comes out to about 18 cents if you heat your water with a standard electric water-heating tank, and nine cents if your water is heated in a standard natural gas water heater. To reduce water-heating costs, wash your clothes in cold water when possible.

For a free EnerGuide information kit, call 1-800-387-2000.

Security systems deter crooks

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deadbolt can be locked or unlocked by a key from either side. The single-cylinder deadbolt is locked or unlocked by a key from outside and by a thumb-turn inside. Both double and single cylinders will automatically deadlock when fully extended. Best of all, you can also add beauty to maximum security by choosing any number of luxurious handlesets, entrysets, knobs and levers, as long as they come complete with heavy-duty, deadlatch mechanisms.

Are there any other tips to discourage intruders?

A: Houses equipped with an alarm system plus visible signage are 15 times less likely to be a target for home intrusion. Exterior lighting should surround your house and allow at least 40 m of visibility. Use interior light timers to establish a pattern of occupancy. Infrared motion sensors work well on the rear of single-family homes, and the installation of a buzzer system on the gate can alert those inside if the latch is opened.

News Canada

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GET YOUR FURNACE READY FOR WINTER - Book your cleaning today!

Moisture Alert

How much is TOO much?

Water is basic to the makeup of human beings – and that can be tough on houses. In a typical household, four people can pour up to 160 litres of water into the air each month, just by living in the house. Add to that other common sources of moisture – long showers, leaky plumbing – and it's easy to see how homes can suffer from poor air quality and major structural problems. In addition, health experts know that fungi, mould and dust mites flourish in damp areas and can cause such health problems as allergies and asthma.

Having the right moisture level in your house means savings in energy and home repairs, and better health.

Stop Moisture Overload with a Few Simple Steps

Watch for:

- frosted windows
- musty-smelling basements
- persistent mould growth

Take control of moisture by starting with the basics:

- fix leaky roofs and drainage and plumbing problems
- turn on the bathroom fan when you're using the shower
- turn on the kitchen range hood when cooking
- make sure that all fans exhaust to the outside
- vent your clothes-dryer to the outside
- cover exposed earth in crawl spaces with heavy-duty plastic
- don't dry firewood in the house
- keep humidifiers turned off unless household air becomes very dry (below 30 per cent relative humidity)
- Health Canada recommends keeping household moisture levels between 35 and 55 per cent relative humidity

Still Too Much Moisture?

Energy-efficient heat recovery ventilators (HRVs) improve home air quality, control moisture and save energy.

For more information on how to reduce your home energy bills, visit <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca> on the Internet.

Storing your window A/C

1. Turn off the breaker before removing the unit from the window.
2. Clean the filter and wipe away as much as possible of the condensed water that remains in the unit.
3. Do not wrap the unit in plastic, as condensation may occur and mould and rust may form inside. It is preferable to take the unit out of the window during the cold season. If you are leaving the unit in the window, make sure that you insulate all around the unit to cut drafts. Enclose the outdoor part of the unit with a tight-fitting insulated cover, but do not wrap the unit with a dark plastic garbage bag. In sunny weather, condensation can form when the sun shines on the dark plastic bag. The water droplets would then freeze, and could cause breakage.

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Are your patio doors sticking? Do you have to wrestle with your window to get some fresh air? Make sure the rail or door track is clean and free of debris.

Once clean, give it a spray with a teflon spray or furniture polish to make it glide smoothly.



CLUB COUPONS

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*stacked in your garage- additional charges will apply if bags must be stacked behind a house, in a basement or up/down stairs. On orders placed and accepted between Sept. 15 and Oct. 31, 2002

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\$5 OFF

Expires Oct. 31, 2002

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10% OFF

Expires Oct. 31, 2002

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SAVE the G.S.T.!

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Expires Oct. 31, 2002

PIANO TUNING

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\$54.95 + TAXES

Expires Oct. 31, 2002

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\$20 OFF

Expires Oct. 31, 2002

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CLUB NEWS

Focus on GARDENING

(NC)— Autumn is the time for cleaning up and putting your home outdoors in order for the long winter ahead.

■ Clean up your garden by removing debris, diseased foliage and weeds. Plant flower bulbs now that will provide you with welcome blooms from the first hint of spring's warmth right into early summer.

■ Prune and shape trees and shrubs. Cut off dead foliage.

■ Fertilize your plants to promote early-spring growth.

■ Fall is the perfect time to divide, reorganize and transplant plants. Most perennials, shrubs and trees benefit from fall planting, giving them time to anchor and establish new roots. Using a high-phosphate fertilizer also promotes root growth. Be sure to add a two- to three-inch layer of mulch to new plants.

■ Eliminate potential winter homes for garden pests by ensuring that sheds, porches and sheltered alcoves are closed tight and cleared of items that will encourage nesting.

■ Take the time now to ensure that gardening tools are in excellent condition next spring. Sharpen mower and other tool blades. Clean and dry garden tools with moving parts that can seize or rust if left untended.



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