

CREATING A COSY RETREAT

Embrace autumn with fast decor makeovers

With the nip of autumn in the air, here are a few tips to help make your indoor space cozy and comfortable for the long winter ahead:

Refresh carpeting

Summer houseguests, traffic coming in and out, open windows, and pets; all take a toll on the carpeting in your home. Having the carpets cleaned in the fall will remove dust, dirt and allergens and help improve the air quality in your home this winter. Regular vacuuming will help extend the life of your carpet, but The Carpet and Rug Institute recommends a professional deep cleaning every 12 to 18 months.

Get organized

As the weather cools, turn an eye to organizing household storage to accommodate the gear of winter. Start with the front hall closet, putting summer outdoor wear in storage to make room for bulkier winter garb. Invest in a closet organizer to make it easier to keep things in order. Pick up some bins at the dollar store for hats, gloves and scarves. Label them accordingly, or assign each member of the household an individual bin or basket to keep track of their gear.

Next tackle the other rooms in the house, looking for items that can be stored until next year to free up closet space. When you bring out fall and winter clothing, only keep the items you know you are going to use. If you



didn't wear it last year, you probably won't wear it this year. It can be helpful to have a few boxes on hand for storage and for unwanted items that can be donated to charity.

Warm up your decor

Swap out pillows in summer fabrics and colours with luxurious tapestry or velvet pillows in rich autumnal shades. Toss a cozy lap blanket on the couch or chair for those cool evenings. Give your dining room a fall flair with chair pads or slipcovers and tablecloths or runners in warm shades. Warm up any room with a new grouping of family photos in coordinating frames.

Plan ahead

If the guest room is looking tired, or you want additional space for an office or TV room this winter, now is the time to start planning before the holi-

day rush. Get ready for holiday house guests by giving the guest room a fresh coat of paint and maybe some new window coverings.

Find extra space by turning an unused bedroom into a multipurpose room. Replace the bed with a futon, a convertible couch or a Murphy bed, add a small desk for a computer work station and you have a den/guestroom/computer room.

If you are considering basement renovations, start the process now to have your new space ready for winter use. Brighten up the space down below with the addition of recessed lighting, a fresh coat of paint and a new carpet or rug.

Start planning now to make your home a warm, inviting place to relax and enjoy when winter forces us indoors.

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Security audit puts the focus on theft prevention

Security-conscious homeowners are turning to the professionals to assess the safety of their homes.

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An ounce of prevention...

Make a ROOF INSPECTION part of fall home maintenance

As important as the roof on your house is, it can sometimes be overlooked when it comes to regular maintenance and repair. Follow these roof maintenance tips to keep your roof in tip-top shape for years to come.

Unclog your gutters. Clogged gutters are one of the most common causes of leaky roofs. Clean the gutters on a regular basis to remove leaves and debris.

Inspect your shingles. Even correctly-installed shingles may begin to crack over time and exposure to the elements.

Nip leaks in the bud. Even a tiny leak has the potential to become a major problem. Contact a roofing contractor to get the leak repaired promptly.

Prevent ice buildup. Ice can be a sign of future problems if it accumulates on your roof for an extended period of time. Rain and ice shields and a drip edge can help melt the ice buildup away without creating a leak. Preventing ice



damming can be the best step you take in defending your roof from damage.

Trim tree branches. Tree branches that are too close to your roof can potentially fall off and cause damage to your shingles. Call in a professional to trim branches that could pose a threat to your roof.

Schedule regular inspections. Once a year, have a professional roofing contractor inspect your roof for any signs of trouble you may have missed. Think of it as your roof's annual checkup!

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Fashionable FALL FIXUPS for your home

(NC) Get your home in tip-top shape with these easy tips and fall in love with it all over again.

Top-to-bottom cleaning. Cleaning is like a choreographed dance — knowing the proper steps and what order to do them in will ensure speed and success. Start at the top and work your way to the bottom. Crumbs will inevitably fall from kitchen counters and dust will fly from fixtures, so clean your floors last so you don't have to redo them. Stoves can be the dirtiest part of the kitchen, so ending there prevents the spread of grease and dirt.


Get creative in the kitchen. Since we spend so much of our time in the kitchen, even the smallest updates produce a big change. Eliminate clutter by creating a home for items that live out in the open, like dish towels. Make a tidy




workspace at the sink by installing a towel bar or ring. If your kitchen's in need of a cosmetic update, try a project like installing an adhesive tile backsplash or a new faucet with coordinating hardware. When selecting a faucet, choose one with style and function, like the Voss faucet from Moen. It has a transitional low-profile design, ideal for installation in front of windows or on a kitchen island, and features Reflex technology, which allows for easy, secure docking of the spray wand. The collection also offers matching accessories, like towel racks.


Colour your world. A fresh coat of paint can do wonders to update the look of a room. For the first time, Pantone selected two colours of the year — Serenity and Rose Quartz. The light pastels complement each other and make for a calm and soothing design aesthetic. Meanwhile, Benjamin Moore chose Simply White. Keeping with the trend of light colours, this white hue offers the perfect blank canvas for your décor.

Find more tips online at moen.ca.



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