

McKean County Association of Realtors
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Fall maintenance helps with upkeep of homes

MCKEAN COUNTY – Fall is a great time to focus on some simple projects to keep your home properly maintained.

“Now’s the time to hire someone to sweep the chimney,” said Mary Brzenski. “A professional chimney sweep will perform maintenance to prevent chimney fires and carbon monoxide poisoning during the winter months. They’ll also make sure your wood-burning fireplace burns more efficiently.”

Trimming trees around the home is also helpful. “Once the leaves have fallen, it’s easy to trim branches, keeping them at least three feet from the house,” she said.

Taking the time to wash windows – inside and out – can help detect other issues. “Clean windows allow us to enjoy the winter sunshine and brighten the home,” she added. “But while you’re cleaning, you can also check for cracked windows, beehives or siding issues. And you’ll have plenty of time to fix them before the temperatures fall.”

Consider adding some light to your landscaping. “Outdoor lighting along the sidewalks, driveway and porch rails gives some extra safety to your home, as well as making it look attractive,” Brzenski said.

Speaking of lighting, make the effort to replace all traditional light bulbs in the home with compact fluorescent lights. CFLs have come down in price since hitting the stores. “According to Consumer Reports, replacing one incandescent bulb with a CFL will save nearly \$60 a year for the lifetime of the bulb,” she said. CFLs last an average of five years.