

# Have a Fall Game Plan

## Plumbing & Heating Tips for Your Home



**Leaves are changing, there's a chill in the air, and football season is going strong. Fall is here, and the winter forecast is looking especially frigid this year. A little preventative winterizing now will help keep you cozy and safe through next season ... and avoid potential hassles once the thermostat really drops!**

- Have an annual service agreement with us? Now is the time to schedule your inspection. Plus, it's ideal if you can turn your heating system on while it's still fairly warm outside to avoid any emergency service calls if it fails to start.
- Make sure no flammable items are stored near your unit. This includes any debris or storage boxes.
- If necessary, winterize your air conditioner. Remove any dust and dirt and clear any leaves, twigs, or branches around the compressor.
- Set your thermostat to maintain a minimum temperature in the event of an unexpected cold snap, especially if you are leaving your house for a few days. Fall temperatures can be very unpredictable... warm one day and freezing the next!
- Winter temperatures can freeze water that is trapped in the outside faucets and pipe connections. To avoid freezing pipes, disconnect your garden hoses from outside faucets and drain them. If possible, turn off the water supply to outside faucets and drain the piping. Be sure to leave the outside faucet in the open position.
- Insulate pipes in all unheated areas inside your home as well (crawlspaces, attics, pipes near outside walls, etc.). In areas that are likely to be below freezing, consider having a heat tape added to the line before insulating.

**While these maintenance tips are fairly easy (and much easier than dealing with a major repair!), never try to service your heating system on your own. To increase your home's efficiency, safeguard against potential problems, and give you peace of mind, be sure to contact Gayson Plumbing as your local licensed plumbing-heating-cooling professional.**