



Fall HOME IMPROVEMENT

October 15, 2026

Pipe Protection

Great reasons to
insulate water pipes
before winter

Filling the Gaps

Signs it's time
to seal windows
and doors

Winterizing Your Home

Keep your
home cozy all
winter long

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Great reasons to insulate water pipes

Homeowners want to do everything they can to protect their investment, and that includes both renovating a property to reflect recent trends and keeping up with routine maintenance to ensure a home does not fall into a state of disrepair.

Anticipating potential issues and planning for them is part of maintaining a home. Such anticipation is an acquired skill, but homeowners can use the experience of others to identify ways to prevent home-related issues before they

arise. One issue homeowners may want to plan for is frozen pipes. The winter of 2025-2026 was notably cold. According to AccuWeather, the La Niña weather pattern was a driving force behind a particularly cold winter in various parts of the United States, including the northeast, midwest and mid-Atlantic regions. Temperatures in those regions were 10 to 15 F below normal, which AccuWeather notes laid the foundation for the most severe and frigid winter in nearly a decade.

The extreme cold that characterized the winter of 2025-2026 forced some homeowners to confront issues they had not anticipated, including frozen pipes. Pipe insulation is an important part of home maintenance that some homeowners may not have been aware of as recently as early 2026, but the following are some notable reasons to add this to your home-related to-do list before winter returns.

Insulation prevents pipes from freezing. Frozen water inside pipes can

start what's essentially a chain reaction that can cause pipes to expand. When pipes expand, the resulting pressure can cause them to burst. By insulating pipes, homeowners can prevent them from freezing. Insulating pipes that are already behind a wall is not a simple job, so it's best left to a professional. But pipes that are along exterior walls should be insulated to ensure they do not freeze when temperatures drop and remain low. Pipes in attics, basements and crawl spaces may be exposed, and homeowners may be able to insulate these on their own, though novices might still want to leave this important job to a professional.

Insulating pipes can save you money. The United States Department of Energy reports that insulating hot water pipes is a notable way to save energy and money. According to the DOE, insulating water pipes reduces heat loss and can raise water temperature by as much as 2 to 4 F. That allows homeowners to lower the temperature setting on their water heaters, which saves money. Insulating pipes also reduces the time it takes for water to warm up when turning on a faucet or shower, which in turn leads to less water consumption and lower water bills.

Insulation can reduce the risk of mold growth. Winter is not the only time of year it pays to have insulated pipes. Pipes are subject to mold growth. That can happen when pipes sweat in humid climates (think of a water bottle left out in the hot sun). The resulting condensation from sweating pipes can drip and lead to the growth of mold in surrounding areas, including within the walls. Mold growth in a home has been linked to various negative health outcomes, including respiratory issues. But insulation prevents the condensation that can lead to mold growth.

Insulation is inexpensive. Homeowners who have grown accustomed to costly repairs and renovations should know that insulating pipes, particularly exposed pipes, is an inexpensive project. While it will cost more to insulate pipes within walls due to the extra work required to access such areas and address them once insulation has been installed, insulating those pipes, especially if they're along exterior walls, can greatly reduce the risk for potentially costly damage down the road.

Insulating pipes is a worthwhile undertaking for all homeowners, and can be particularly beneficial for those who live in areas with extreme weather in winter and summer.

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Tips to winterize a home as cold weather approaches

It's not uncommon to spend a lot of time out of the house when the weather outside is warm. The popularity of outdoor living spaces has made it easier than ever to enjoy nature without leaving home, which can generally be done from late spring to mid-fall each year in many regions. But as fall creeps toward winter and temperatures drop, it's time to head back indoors.

As millions prepare to go back inside with winter approaching, it can be beneficial to winterize a home so interior spaces are more comfortable and exterior spaces are better able to withstand potentially harsh winter weather.

Check your carbon monoxide detectors. Fall is a great season to open the windows in many regions that feature prototypical autumn air. But the crisp air of fall will eventually give way to much colder air, at which time the windows will be closed and likely remain shut for months to come. The Minnesota Department of Health notes that carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that cannot be detected by the senses. When windows remain closed for long periods of time, such as in winter, the buildup of CO, which can come from sources like water heaters, gas stoves, fireplaces, and clothes dryers, can poison residents over time. CO



detectors are a safety net against such a fate, but they must be operating at peak capacity in order to be effective. As fall winds down, check all CO detectors to make sure they're working properly and replace any that are not.

Check for drafts. Check around windows and doors throughout the home to see if there are any gaps that are allowing air from outside to enter the home. If daytime temperatures are mild well into the fall, then it can be difficult to see if there are any drafts before the sun goes down. Conduct this check in the evenings when temperatures are a little more chilly and leaks are easier to detect. If drafts are detected, apply weather stripping around doors and windows that do not require replacement. If there's drafts around aging windows and doors, consider replacing them.

Call a chimney sweeping service. Cozying up beside a fire can make anyone forget the cold weather outside. But fireplaces should be subjected to a thorough cleaning by a skilled professional before each winter. Animals might have nested in the chimney since the fireplace was last used, and you will want any nests cleared prior to lighting your first fire of the season. In addition, the tar-like substance creosote, which forms when wood is burned in a fireplace, can build up and harden over time. That's a dangerous prospect, as creosote is highly flammable, which can lead to chimney fires. Creosote also can block the flow of air through a chimney, and that can trap gasses, including CO, in a home.

Reverse your fans. It's a simple step but one people may not even realize they can make. In homes with ceiling fans, residents can reverse the fans so the blades spin clockwise. This simple step pushes trapped warm air hovering around the ceiling into the living space below. This can make home interiors warmer without requiring residents to turn up the thermostat and increase their energy bill.

Replace your HVAC air filter. Replacing the air filter on your HVAC prior to winter can make the unit operate more efficiently, which can help reduce your wintertime energy bill. Replacing the filter prior to winter also improves indoor air quality, which is a notable benefit during a time of year when the windows typically remain closed for months.

Winterizing a home is not a significant undertaking, but it can be very effective at making homes healthier and more comfortable once windows are closed for the season.

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The benefits of a fall roof replacement

A roof is a vital component of a home that protects the structure from the elements and ensures that sun, rain, wind, and snow do not compromise the integrity of interior spaces. Peak Performance Roofing says the average asphalt shingle roof found on many homes lasts between 15 and 30 years. Alternative roofing materials, such as metal or clay tiles, can last much longer.

Homeowners who stay in a home for many years will likely need to replace a roof at some point. Choosing when to replace the roof may come down to selecting the right season. Experts typically consider fall the prime time to upgrade a roof for a variety of reasons.

Moderate temperatures: Fall weather tends to be comfortable in many regions of the country. Magnolia Home Remodeling Group says fall temperatures are better suited for roofing and allow materials to work the best. When temperatures are too hot, shingles can become soft and prone to scuffing, while cold temperatures can make materials



brittle and difficult to seal.

Comfort for workers: The same

moderate conditions can make it easier for roofing contractors to get the work

done. It can be extremely hot on a roof during summer, necessitating frequent breaks for workers. Winter weather conditions are not ideal for working on a roof, with snow and ice making things slippery. Fall weather can help workers feel more comfortable.

Avoid the rush: Earl W. Johnston Roofing, LLC says spring and early summer are peak seasons for roofing contractors due to post-winter repairs. Homeowners may experience shorter wait times, better pricing and flexible scheduling if they opt for a fall roof replacement.

Prepare for winter: Getting a roof in the fall means having a new and functional barrier against winter storms that can be hard on old roofs. It also means the roof will be ready for rainy, spring weather.

Fall is an ideal time to replace a roof for many reasons. Homeowners can use the summer to vet various roofing contractors and come up with a package that fits their schedules and budgets.

The benefits of a professional gutter cleaning

Gutters serve an important role on a building, catching rainwater from the roof and channelling it away from the structure. Without properly functioning gutters and downspouts, basements can flood, foundations may become cracked and soil can erode. Gutters also help maintain roof and siding longevity, ensuring that rainwater will not pool under shingles or siding. Wet leaves also create habitats for pests to live, notably for mosquitoes, termites, rodents, and birds.

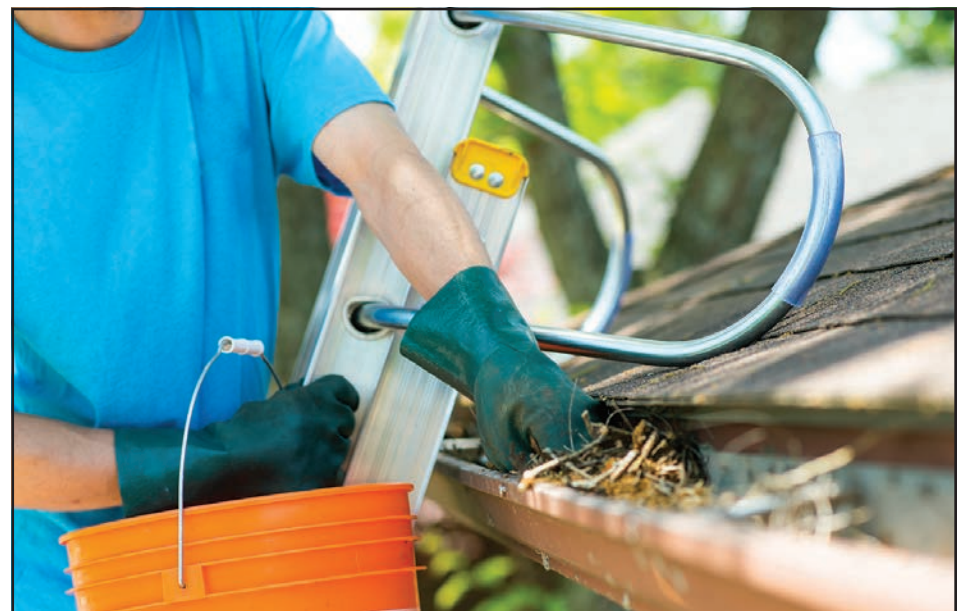
Homeowners can clean their own gutters, but the job is often best left to professionals. Here are some of the reasons to leave gutter cleaning to an expert.

Pros have the equipment. As with any project, having the right equipment means

it will be done correctly. Handyman services and professional gutter cleaners already have the gear to reach gutters and tackle the mess, unlike some homeowners who will have to purchase tools.

Pros are trained in safety. Gutter cleaning professionals are trained in proper safety procedures and have the right equipment to safely scale homes. Gutter cleaning involves climbing ladders, walking on roofs, and handling slippery debris. It also may require working close to electrical and cable wires entering the home. Homeowners who don't know how to navigate these conditions safely risk falls or other injuries.

Pros can spot other damage. Professionals may spot damage to a home



that homeowners do not see. This may include cracked seams, loose fasteners, sagging sections, and even roof damage. This allows homeowners to get a jump on the problem early on before it progresses to something more serious.

Pros save homeowners time. One of the obvious perks to letting a professional clean the gutters is that it saves homeowners time. The expert can get the job done in less time and more efficiently than a novice weekend warrior.

Mr. Handyman, a home improvement service, says the general recommendation is to get the gutters cleaned at least twice a year: once in the

spring after trees have dropped their seeds, and again in the fall after all leaves have fallen. People with heavier amounts of natural debris may need more frequent cleanings. A professional gutter service will typically include inspection of the entire gutter system; removal of all debris from gutters and downspouts; flushing of gutters and downspouts to ensure water flows correctly; assessment of water being directed away; and identification of areas in need of repair.

Gutter cleaning is an important step that safeguards a home by keeping gutters and downspouts in working order.



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Signs doors and windows need air sealing

When pondering projects around a house, it's easy to overlook small tasks and direct your focus toward more significant undertakings. Small projects might not generate the reactions that larger projects do, but even the simplest tasks can go a long way toward making a home more comfortable.

Sealing leaks around windows and doors is unlikely to make any homeowner's list of dream projects. However, as the moderate temperatures of fall give way to harsh winter weather, homeowners who seal leaks around their doors and windows may be surprised by how effective this simple project can be at reducing energy costs and making a home more comfortable. In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy notes that sealing inefficient windows and doors can reduce annual utility bills by 7 to 15 percent. That's a potentially significant cost savings, particularly in an era marked by rising utility costs.

Before homeowners seal their windows and doors, they can first look for signs that these areas are allowing outdoor air in. The United States Environmental Protection Agency notes there are some obvious signs that a home has leaks around the windows and doors. Those signs include:

Drafts: If you place your hand around

closed windows or doors but can still feel drafts, then there are leaks that will need to be sealed.

Gaps: Gaps around windows and doors that are letting outdoor air in typically are noticeable to the naked eye. You might see light coming in through small cracks on a sunny day. These gaps may only be in one or two places, but that's enough to adversely affect energy bills.

Unwelcome guests: Pests or insects may be another indicator that there are gaps around windows or doors. If you consistently see insects near a particular entryway or window, or signs of pests near doorways, that's likely because there's a gap or hole in these areas that's enabling them to access the interior of your home.

Odors: It's not only your sense of vision that might detect leaks, but also your sense of smell. If you notice exterior odors inside your home even though doors and windows are closed, then leaks around these areas may be the culprit.

Peeling paint or wallpaper: Peeling paint or wallpaper is another potential indicator of a leak around a door or window. This can occur when water is entering the home through the leak. Over time, wet paint or wallpaper dries



and can begin to peel. This is a potentially significant issue because it can lead to mold infestation and even structural damage to a home.

The EPA characterizes sealing behind windows and doors as a moderate to difficult project. If leaks are detected, homeowners can benefit from hiring a professional to

do the job quickly and correctly.

Leaks around windows and doors can prove costly if they're not addressed promptly. As winter approaches, investigating for leaks and addressing any that are found can save money and ensure a home stays comfortable when the temperatures drop.

Cracked walkways threaten homes and residents

The popularity of outdoor living spaces has increased dramatically over the last decade. The National Association of Home Builders notes that industry projections estimate the outdoor living market will reach \$26.8 billion by 2027. That's a testament to the popularity of spaces that are transforming how people use their

properties and spend time at home.

Outdoor kitchens, living rooms and expansive patios garner the bulk of the attention directed at exterior living spaces, but walkways into these spaces are equally important. A stunning walkway can set the tone for a space, while a cracked walkway can pose a threat to a home, its

residents and any guests who visit to enjoy some R&R in an outdoor living space.

Cracked walkways increase injury risk. The National Center for Biotechnology Information indicates that roughly three in four outdoor falls are attributable to environmental hazards like cracked or broken walkways. The cost of a new outdoor living space can be significant, and some homeowners might delay redoing their existing walkways so they can use those savings to fund the larger project. But homeowners planning to entertain and even those who will be using their existing walkways to access an outdoor living space are urged to include cracked walkway replacement into their outdoor living space project. Doing so can prevent falls and leave homeowners less vulnerable to accidents involving guests that can ultimately lead to higher insurance premiums.

Cracked walkways can contribute to damage to your home. Cracked walkways also can harm a home. A cracked walkway often slopes as well, and when it slopes toward the home, it can then channel water in the direction of the home's foundation. That can cause the soil around the home to erode and ultimately threaten the structural integrity of a home's foundation. Homeowners may even be able to see such damage already if a walkway

running alongside a garage is cracked. If so, walked into the garage and see if the foundation area opposite where the crack is outside is showing signs of damage. If it is, fixing cracked walkways can prevent further damage. If it's not, then homeowners might have gotten lucky and identified the problem before it affected the foundation of their home.

Cracked walkways adversely affect curb appeal. According to Brown Jordan Outdoor Kitchens, 75 percent of prospective home buyers indicated they would prioritize homes with outdoor living spaces over homes that lacked this popular feature. Outdoor living spaces certainly boast the wow factor, but cracked walkways en route to these areas can take away from that appeal and create a bad first impression. Savvy homeowners recognize that every investment they make in their home is an opportunity to improve resale value. Fixing cracked walkways when redesigning exterior spaces is a great way to ensure the boost in curb appeal from an outdoor living space is not compromised by unsightly and even dangerous walking paths leading residents and guests to these popular areas.

Cracked walkways should be addressed so homeowners and their guests are safe and home values are not compromised by these unsightly yet fixable issues.

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Potential fireplace problems

Fireplaces are often a centerpiece of an interior living space. Homeowners often laud the ambiance a fireplace can provide, and the supplemental heat a fireplace can provide can be just what people need to stay warm on a cold day. The Northeast Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association says an estimated 57 percent of homeowners in the United States own some type of fireplace, freestanding stove or hearth product. However, fireplaces are not without their potential for problems.

Issues that can affect a fireplace will depend on the type of system, as problems that affect wood-burning fireplaces

will differ from those that can affect gas units. The following are some potential issues homeowners can look out for when using their fireplaces.

Smoke spillage: Fireplaces are supposed to vent up and out through a chimney or exhaust pipe. But if a damper is closed or blocked, if the chimney is dirty, or if there is negative air pressure in a tightly sealed home, smoke cannot escape and will enter the living space.

Creosote formation: Creosote is a flammable, tar-like substance that is the result of burning wood. Creosote significantly increases the risk of a chimney fire. Creosote can build up in the flue

over time if it is not remediated.

Odors: A dirty chimney from creosote or moisture damage can result in a foul odor emanating from the fireplace. This also may occur if a bird or rodent nests in the chimney.

Ignition failure: Gas units may not always light properly. Doctor Flue says it could be the result of a malfunctioning pilot light or an improperly placed log set. In addition, if the pilot light goes out as soon as the button is released, it may indicate a dirty or faulty thermocouple or thermopile, which are sensors that keep the gas valve open.

Cracked masonry: Any cracks in the

mortar, firebricks or chimney crown are major hazards. Cracks in such components increase the risk of a house fire and should be immediately addressed.

Drafts: Cold air coming through the fireplace may indicate a damaged or missing damper.

Carbon monoxide: Grill Parts Replacement says poorly vented fireplaces can lead to a buildup of carbon monoxide inside the home, which is a health hazard.

Oftentimes homeowners should leave fireplace troubleshooting to a professional. Annual inspections of units can head off potential problems to ensure safer operation.

How to create more interior space for the winter

After a summer and fall spent outdoors, winter drives many people back inside. Homeowners may take inventory of their interior spaces in winter and find that there isn't as much room as they would like. When entertaining inside, a home may feel particularly cramped.

Creating an open, inviting indoor environment requires maximizing spatial design but not necessarily expanding

square footage. By focusing on a few strategies, homeowners can maximize interior flow.

Change up the layout of furniture

Being able to move around a space more easily may come down to rethinking the furniture layout. Interior design experts often emphasize traffic flow in

a space, which can determine how comfortable homeowners and their guests feel. Universal design methodologies point to establishing clear, unobstructed routes to link different zones of a room. This will minimize physical congestion in the space. When entertaining, homeowners can push larger pieces of furniture against the perimeter of a room to open up a central gathering area. Heavy coffee tables can be swapped out for smaller tables to allow the rearrangement of the layout depending on how many people are spending time in a given space.

Subdivide rooms

Open-concept spaces might have lost some their appeal in recent years. Designers are now going back in the direction of room-based layouts over open concepts, according to Martha Stewart and New York-based designer Madeline Merin. Some homeowners now have a greater need for definition of the spaces they have to work with. Instead of one open room, dividing the space can create the illusion of having more square footage while providing distinctive spots for privacy and other room functions. An

open-concept family room, for example, can be divided into a gaming room on one side and a home office space on the other.

Change how spaces are perceived

Lighting and visual elements can make spaces feel more roomy and inviting even if they haven't gotten larger. Painting walls in soft tones will help them reflect more light, making boundaries feel like they are receding. Incorporating more natural light by removing heavy draperies is one strategy. According to the Journal of Biophilic Design, biophilic design is the intentional integration of nature into buildings and spaces to improve human health and productivity. Homeowners can incorporate natural lighting, living plants, organic materials, and organic patterns into their interior designs to make spaces feel more inviting.

Homeowners can look to various design strategies to open up interior spaces in their homes with a goal toward making them more comfortable places to ride out the winter.

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Top 4 home projects for fall

If you're hoping to sneak in a few home updates before the holidays arrive, now is the time. Thumbtack surveyed more than 1,000 homeowners for its 2026 fall and winter trends report to reveal the updates that matter most to homeowners this season. Whether you want to host guests more comfortably or try a fresh paint color, here are the four most popular interior projects to get you started.

Experiment with wallpaper

If you haven't already, consider adding patterned wallpaper to your space. According to Thumbtack, consumers continue to lean into unique patterns like checks, animal print, and full-sized home murals, with 61% of homeowners considering adding at least one wallpaper pattern in the next year.

Florals and botanicals still reign supreme, as the preferred pattern of 34% of homeowners. Layered patterns, as well as stripes and checks, are close behind, with 24% and 22% of survey participants considering them, respectively. Abstract wallpapers are also a popular choice, beloved by 20% of homeowners.

Adding wallpaper in unexpected areas, such as small nooks or your ceiling, is another fun way to personalize your space. Still, the most classic places for wallpaper are also the most popular among homeowners: 46% go for the iconic accent wall, while 27% prefer to wallpaper a powder room or bathroom.

Paint with warm colors

Homeowners are turning to warm, plucked-from-nature picks for interior



colors. According to Thumbtack, interior painting is the third most-requested home project, and homeowners gravitate towards a certain set of colors.

The top color category is green, with 40% of homeowners preferring moss, olive, and forest greens. Warm browns and chocolates follow, while off-whites and warm neutrals are still having their

moment. 30% of those considering an interior painting project plan to incorporate timeless staples beige and taupe into their space. Lastly, clay, terra-cotta, and rust shades are favored by 24% of homeowners.

Make the holidays bigger than ever

Thumbtack is seeing a major rise in holiday decor projects, which means it's already time to start planning seasonal updates. 64% of Thumbtack respondents said they plan to decorate their front porch, and 52% are looking to add

holiday lighting to their landscape or roof.

If you love oversized lawn decor, you're not alone. Inflatables and outdoor figurines are the top holiday update for Thumbtack respondents, closely followed by more natural seasonal decor (think gourds, hay bales, or greenery).

But you don't need outdoor decorations to make your home stand out. About a third of Thumbtack's survey respondents are making their indoor holiday decor visible from outside to save time and money. Window decals and hanging decorations are festive ways to celebrate the holidays in two areas at once.

Design flexible space

Flex rooms are becoming more popular, especially as families look for ways to make their space work harder. Maybe you already have a guest room that's also being used as an office, or a kids' playroom that doubles as a media room and hangout space. Transitioning a room into a flex space can be beneficial in more ways than one, especially if you're hosting guests for the holidays.

Some homeowners are already using their spaces as multi-purpose rooms. 52% of respondents told Thumbtack that they use their living room for a different purpose when having friends or family over, while 39% are converting their dining rooms into a multipurpose room. Others are utilizing a spare bedroom or home office for extra space.

No matter which room you choose to make over, a few projects are in top demand. The platform saw a 49% year-over-year increase in requests for closet and shelving systems. Home modification—which extends to making houses easier for guests and families to navigate—rose 84%. Meanwhile, searches for home organizing rose 37%, as homeowners look for better ways to keep their flex spaces clutter-free.



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Fall activities to squeeze in before winter

Winter has its share of devotees, but warmer times of year like, spring, summer and fall tend to entice people to spend more time outdoors than they might spend once temperatures dip below 40F. As fall winds down and winter draws closer, people who love to spend time outdoors can look to these quintessential autumn activities to engage their love of the outdoors before temperatures drop.

Farm-based fun

Late fall may no longer qualify as picking season for people who love to pick their own fruits, but come late October and November there's still plenty of fun to be had down on the farm. Farms run the gamut from apple-picking paradises to spots tailor-made for wine enthusiasts, and these spots tend to feature lots of entertainment throughout fall. Hayrides, live music, tours of the grounds, and food and wine tastings are just some examples of farm-based fun that make for great ways to enjoy the welcoming weather of mid- to late-fall.

Hiking

There may be no more beautiful time of year than fall to spend a day



hiking through the woods. The color palette come fall is loaded with bright reds, seasonal orange and splashes of yellow. The lower temperatures of fall invite scores of outdoor enthusiasts to don their hiking boots and spend a day snaking their way through wooded areas that range from simple and kid-friendly trails to more challenging hikes designed for seasoned hikers. Trails may

be covered in snow in just a few short weeks, making mid- to late-fall an ideal time to soak in these stunning sights before the leaves fall.

Festivals

Fall is festival season in many areas, with scores of locales hosting seasonal events like days celebrating a town and Oktoberfest gatherings. Days devoted

to towns often feature local vendors like restaurants, wineries and breweries and plenty of kid-friendly fun like bounce houses and sports clinics. As the season progresses, keep an eye out for popular Oktoberfest events that celebrate Bavarian culture and offer locals a chance to cut a rug and enjoy some hearty cuisine. As October draws to a close, Halloween festivals can make for a fun and costumed day out.

Football

Sports fans know football season kicks into high gear come October, when high school, college and professional teams all take to the gridiron each weekend. Those with no intention of spending a day combatting winter winds in the bleachers can take in a football game each mid- to late-fall before the mercury drops. Be sure to up the entertainment value by tailgating with friends and fellow fans prior to kickoff.

Mid- to late-fall is a great time to enjoy the great outdoors. A little fresh air before the mercury dips below freezing is a great way to spend weekend afternoons.

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How to stay within budget when hosting holidays

Family and friends are a big part of the holiday season. Countless people reunite with family and friends between late November and early January, and many even host loved ones during this festive time of year.

Hosting loved ones during the holiday season can fill a home with love and laughter. Hosting can save guests the cost of staying in a hotel, but it can put a strain on hosts' finances at a point in the year when budgets may already be stretched thin. Thankfully, there are many ways to stay within budget when hosting for the holidays.

Trim the guest list. Rising food costs have been a topic of discussion for much of the year, so hosts can anticipate spending more to feed their guests in 2026. The Economic Research Service reports that food-at-home costs increased by roughly 3 percent between June 2025 and June 2026, and the cost of holiday season staples like beef and veal experienced particularly large price swings. The ERS also notes that food prices tend to spike each December due to increased demand. Hosts can combat rising food costs by trimming their guest lists to include only family and close friends.

Shop in advance. While food costs



tend to spike in December, many holiday season staples can be purchased in advance and frozen. Beef, chicken, veal,

and other main courses can be purchased prior to December and stored in the freezer. This can help hosts avoid rising

food costs and also offers a way to spread out hosting-related costs so hosts are not spending extra money on food during a time of year when they also need to shop for gifts and possibly even spend on travel.

Request that guests help to share the cost. Hosts may handle the cooking, but that does not mean they need to provide everything. Ask guests to bring snacks, desserts, and beverages. Sharing food and beverage responsibilities saves hosts money and many guests would love to pitch in.

Simplify at the bar. Alcohol prices do not necessarily experience the same dramatic spike in cost as food come the holiday season. But spirits can still be expensive, and prices can always rise. When planning the drinks menu for a holiday party, hosts can emphasize simple and less expensive beverages like beer and wine. Cocktails might be a go-to for some people, but they often require multiple ingredients in addition to the more costly spirits like whiskey and vodka.

Hosting for the holidays can make the season more fun but also more expensive for hosts. These strategies and more can help hosts stay on budget this December.



Fresh Citrus Fruit Sale

Order by November 13th
Pick up week of December 1st

Navel Oranges "Sunkist"	Sm. Box (2/5 bu.)	\$29.00	Lg. Box (4/5 bu.)	\$42.00
Red Grapefruit	Sm. Box (2/5 bu.)	\$23.00	Lg. Box (4/5 bu.)	\$38.00
Mandarin Oranges	Sm. Box (2/5 bu.)	\$28.00	Lg. Box (4/5 bu.)	\$42.00
Clementines	Sm. Box (1/5 bu.)	\$27.00	Lg. Box (1/2 bu.)	\$46.00
Apples (Red Delicious, Fuji, Gold)	Sm. Box (1/2 bu.)	\$32.00	Lg. Box (1 bu.)	\$48.00
Pears (Anjou)	Sm. Box (2/5 bu.)	\$40.00	Lg. Box (4/5 bu.)	\$65.00
Holiday Gift Box	(2/5 bu.)		\$38.00	
(18-20 Oranges, 10 Red Apples & 4 Red Grapefruit)				
Premium Gift Box	(2/5 bu.)		\$38.00	
(11 Red Grapefruit, 6 Oranges, 6 Apples & 3 Pears)				
Mixed Citrus Gift Box	(2/5 bu.)		\$38.00	
(16-20 Clementines, 18-20 Oranges & 6 Grapefruit)				
Grand Slam Gift Box	(2/5 bu.)		\$38.00	
(18-20 Oranges, 6 Red Apples, 6 Pears & 3 Golden Apples)				
Apple/Pear Combo (15 Red Apples & 15 Pears)	(2/5 bu.)		\$38.00	
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Small touches make a big impact in apartments

Decorations are among the most notable signs that the holiday season has arrived. Stores are decked out in garlands and lights, and a quick drive around one's neighborhood will reveal a bevy of festively decorated homes. Some people display a lawn full of inflatables while others prefer a more subtle look of classic white lights wrapped around trees.

Apartment dwellers may wonder how they can make their abodes more festive for the holidays as well. Although not as visible to passersby as single-family homes, apartments can still be decorated. Apartment dwellers can employ a few tips to maximize space and decorating potential.

Work within your existing square footage. A large Christmas tree can take up a lot of real estate in an apartment. As an alternative, people can set up a slim, miniature or a wall-mounted tree.

Use damage-free mounting. Landlords may have strict rules about what can or cannot be hung on walls. Nail-free adhesive hooks are an option to hang wreaths and lights to minimize damage.

String lights everywhere. Lights can be strung around windows, mirrors or



bookshelves to create a cozy glow.

Invest in pillow covers. Instead of buying new pillows for the holidays, existing throw pillows can be tucked into holiday-hued covers.

Go with miniature details. Decorating a small apartment is an opportunity to display small collections. An array of miniature trees or delicate glass ornaments on shelves is festive without

overwhelming residents and guests, according to West Elm.

Utilize the balcony. Apartment dwellers who have a patio or balcony can use it to enhance the holiday spirit. Dangling outdoor lanterns or string lights on the railing will add a touch of sparkle.

Pick cohesive colors. A color palette of two or three tones will help smaller rooms look organized instead of cluttered, according to Food52.

Bring in nature. Even though an apartment may be in an urban area, that doesn't mean one can't enjoy a little nature. Display pine branches and real pine cones in vases to create an easy centerpiece.

Display a seasonal doormat. A festive doormat is a simple way to spread cheer and welcome guests. It's also an inexpensive and impactful decorative item that can be used year after year.

Dress up windows. Windows can be adorned with curtains that add a touch of glam or holiday colors. A simple string of lights across the curtain rod adds whimsy and illumination.

Apartments can be adorned in holiday finery with simple touches that won't overwhelm compact spaces.

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