

Fall is a great time to be outside for winterizing chores, as temperatures are much more tolerable. Don't forget these important duties to ensure your investments will be protected during the bitter cold.

Close the Pool

Depending on how you feel about the upkeep required with your swimming pool, closing season can either be a little sad or a total relief. The process involves critical procedures to ensure it will be ready to go when the warm weather returns. If you have a permanent pool, getting help from a professional can take most of the stress off your shoulders.

Here are a few other good reasons to let a pro complete the job for you.

- **Knowledge:** Closing a pool requires much more than throwing a cover on it and letting it sit until next season. A professional service will guarantee your investment is protected by employing a certified staff with training.

- **Safety:** Any time water is present, there is a risk of drowning. Especially when handling heavy equipment involved with closing the pool, you could potentially injure yourself and fall in. An expert will have a qualified team to ensure their safety and insurance to protect you if injuries occur on your property.

- **Save time:** Allow your pool to remain a place of leisure by not dreading the upcoming closing process. Spending a little money for an expert ensures your pool is closed properly and efficiently.



Tackling Fall Chores

Protect Your Deck

Fall is the perfect time to winterize your deck or make repairs ignored during summer. The cooler weather makes it easy for the DIY handyman or an experienced contractor to protect your deck before the cold arrives.

Winter weather can wreak havoc on wood thanks to moisture caused by snow and ice. Warping, chipping the paint with snow shovels and impacted dirt are all common issues experienced during the cold. It is a good idea to pressure wash the surface during autumn, so it will be clean before the wet stuff

sticks. Before washing, make sure all furniture and decorations are removed so the entire area can be cleaned.

Your deck can also benefit from applying a protective stain. Not only will it be appealing visually, it helps create a barrier between the wood and moisture.

Bring Fall Indoors



The beginning of fall is a fun time of the year for both children and adults. Exciting holidays like Halloween and Thanksgiving are right around the corner. Spruce your home up with accents related to this festive time of year.

Pumpkins as a Centerpiece

If you have ever walked through a grocery store or watched commercials during autumn, you have witnessed America's obsession with pumpkin everything. From coffee to cereal, there is no doubt that pumpkins are a staple during fall.

Of course, the most popular way to use a pumpkin as a centerpiece is by carving a face into it. Traditionally, a small candle is placed inside to illuminate it in the dark. For extra safety points, consider using a battery-powered LED light instead. Take carving up a notch by trying out advanced patterns. Find artwork online for inspiration, it's amazing what you can do with a little patience and practice.

A few other good ideas to make a statement with pumpkins are to add them to an attractive display featuring baskets, accent flowers and painting them different colors. Or, consider covering mini pumpkins with a clear dome and showcase them on a

fireplace mantel.

Pinecones

Another way to tell fall is here is seeing the ground littered with pinecones. Even if you don't have a cone-producing tree in your yard, you shouldn't have any problem finding a neighbor or family member would be thrilled to let you take them home.

Get your whole family involved to participate in engaging crafts like:

- **Pinecone roses:** Paint the outer shell in different colors and attach them to stems from the tree for a stand-out display.

- **Make a spider:** Googly eyes and pipe cleaners can make anything look humorous, even a pinecone spider.

- **Bird feeder:** Cover a pinecone with peanut butter and stick bird frame to its outer shell. Hang it from a tree and enjoy the new wildlife in your yard.

For most crafts involving pinecones, a hot glue gun will be your best friend. Check with your local hobby store for the right tool to fit your demands.

Hay, fall!

Hay bales are another staple during fall decorating. With a few bales of straw, attractive flowers and cornstalks, you can create a display that makes your front entrance stand out.

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