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## Your Home's Fall Maintenance Checklist

With summer coming to an end, we're transitioning into shorter days and cooler weather. To get you and your home prepared for the chilly months that lie ahead, we've put together a Home Fall Maintenance Checklist.

### Clean gutters

Cleaning your gutters prevents them from falling, rotting, and flooding. Once most of the leaves have fallen, scoop them out of your gutters and into a bucket. Use a garden hose to wash the smaller debris toward the drain outlet.

### Trim trees and shrubs

Late fall is the best time to prune plants and trees. Keep branches about three feet from your house so moisture doesn't drip onto the roof or siding.

### Aerate the soil

Grass grows slower in cool temperatures. Aerating helps your lawn by loosening the soil so it absorbs water and nutrients.

### Protect pipes

Use foam or rubber pipe insulation. These foam covers are safer than heating tape and slip right over your pipes to prevent freezing.

### Seal air leaks

Check the caulking on the inside and outside of your windows and replace if necessary.

### Update attic insulation

This will help it retain warm air when you run your heater, keeping your home cozy. Plus, it will keep your energy bill from rising.

### Maintain the heating system

Test your heater to make sure it's in good condition and replace the filters — dirty or clogged filters can prevent airflow.

### Clean the chimney

The best time to clean your chimney is right before the temperature starts to drop.

### Test smoke alarms

Make sure smoke alarms are installed on every level of the home and outside each sleeping area. Test them each month and replace the batteries once a year.

### Relax and enjoy

Now that you've checked everything off your to-do list, the next step is to pour yourself a cup of hot chocolate and cozy up with a blanket!

## September Calendar

9/3 - Labor Day

9/9 - Grandparents' Day

9/11 - Patriot Day

9/17 - Citizenship Day

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## 5 Curb Appeal Tips for Your Home this Fall

Whether you want your home to catch homebuyers' eyes this fall or you simply want to step up curb appeal for your own enjoyment, we have 5 tips to transform your home this fall.

**Spruce up your lawn** - Keep your lawn healthy by raking your leaves once a week.

**Plant flowers** - Splash color around your yard by planting vibrant flowers like Goldenrods, Asters, Heathers, or Sedums.

**Paint the front door** - Burnt orange, aubergine, and sage green are great choices

this fall. Throw on a fall wreath and voila — instant fall curb appeal!

**Clean the gutters** - A home with clean gutters shows potential buyers that you care about your home's appearance and upkeep.

**Decorate with pumpkins** - Give your home the ultimate fall vibe by decorating the porch with decorative pumpkins. Carve elegant patterns and place candles inside to instantly brighten up your walkway!

Use any of these tips to let your home show its true colors for the changing season.



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## Labor Day BLT Cups

### Ingredients:

- 12 slices bacon
- 1/2 c. Greek yogurt
- 2 tsp. lemon juice
- 2 tbsp. chopped chives, plus more for garnish
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 c. halved cherry tomatoes
- 1 head of romaine lettuce, chopped
- 1 avocado, chopped

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 400°. Invert a muffin tin upside down onto a large rimmed baking sheet.

Cut 8 slices of bacon in half crosswise. Lay two of the halved strips onto an inverted muffin tin cup in the shape of a cross. Weave two more half pieces on both sides to create a mini weave. Wrap the entire cup with a whole slice of bacon. Repeat to make three more cups.

Bake until crispy -- about 20 minutes. Let cool for at least 15 minutes.

### Make the dressing:

In a medium bowl, whisk together Greek yogurt, lemon juice, and chives and season it with salt and pepper. Add tomatoes and lettuce and toss to coat.

Remove bacon cups from muffin tin and fill with dressed lettuce and tomatoes. Garnish with more chives and serve.

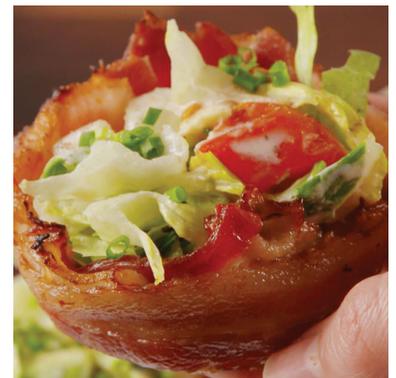


Photo & recipe courtesy of delish.com