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SMART TIPS TO WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

ST. LOUIS, MO (October 24, 2011) – Autumn’s approach does not signify just a drop in temperature and leaves in an array of blazing colors; the changing seasons can also mean wear and tear on your home, unless you plan ahead.

“The fall is an excellent time to prepare your home for the long winter ahead,” said Jim Dohr, president of Coldwell Banker Gundaker. “A bit of simple maintenance goes a long way in keeping your house in good shape for prospective buyers.”

Winterize your home the right way:

- **Fine-tune your foliage.** The descent of fall’s rustling leaves can clog gutters and clutter your walkways and patios. Keep walking areas swept and collect lawn debris regularly. Leaf guards keep gutters empty and easier to maintain.
- **Warm it up.** Check working fireplaces for loose mortar and debris prior to getting cozy in front of the firelight. Get heating systems inspected and stock up on filters for timely changes throughout the season.
- **Swap out screens.** Replacing window screens with storm windows will not only help with the heating bill, it will also extend the life of the mesh material. When removing, look for taps on the screen and pull upward to avoid bending the frame.
- **Seal of approval.** The snow, ice and salt that come with the winter season can wreak havoc on driveways. Protect yours by caring for any cracks and holes before the freeze sets in.

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