

A person wearing a blue shirt, dark pants, and green gloves is raking a large pile of brown and orange autumn leaves in a grassy yard. The background is a soft-focus green lawn and trees.

# *All About* **FALL**

## **Fall To-Do List**

Home improvement projects for fall

## **Fireplace Prep**

How to prepare your fireplace for winter

## **Spotting Driveway Damage**

Potential trouble signs for driveways

August 2016  
A Special Supplement to

**Record-Herald**  
**The Times-Gazette**  
**News Journal**



**A**pple pie, pumpkins and blooming chrysanthemums are symbols of autumn. But nothing signals the arrival of fall more than the millions of leaves that begin to cascade from the trees as the temperatures dip.

Many people feel nothing is more beautiful than the yellow, red, purple, and orange leaves that coat neighborhoods and countrysides each fall. But in spite of their beauty, leaves might be a nuisance to homeowners tasked with removing the growing piles of them from their lawns. Those with large oak and maple trees in front of their homes understand the seemingly endless work of leaf removal.

As the days begin to grow shorter and colder, these changes trigger a hormone release in trees, prompting them to drop their leaves.

This chemical message causes the formation of abscission cells where the leaf stem meets the branch, say botanists at the Missouri Botanical Garden. So rather than merely dropping off of trees when the wind blows, the leaves actually fall off deliberately.

Left untouched, fallen leaves can contribute to lawn problems such as poor aeration, mold growth and moisture issues. Leaves also can cause staining on driveways and walkways.

Prompt removal can help prevent any problems. To make faster and easier work of leaf removal, keep these tips in mind.

**Mow over thin leaf coverage.** If only a few leaves have fallen, use a mulching mower to shred the leaves until they are small enough that they won't suffocate the lawn. The small pieces will decompose in the lawn, reintroducing nutrients as a result.

**Use a tarp.** Rake or blow leaves onto a tarp and then drag the tarp to the curbside or to the back of a truck for proper disposal. Special leaf scoopers enable you to grab more leaves if they need to be picked up and transported. Otherwise, you can use the covers from two garbage pails to achieve a similar effect.

**Work with the wind.** Rake in the direction the wind is blowing and downhill if your property slopes. This way it will be easier on you, and you won't be working against Mother Nature.

**Spread out the job.** Do not attempt to remove all fallen leaves in a single day. Schedule a few cleaning days during the season to make lighter work of the job than if you tried to do it all at once. Keep in mind that leaves will continue to fall throughout the season and you may need to spend a few days removing leaves from your yard.

Removing leaves is a large part of fall home maintenance. Employ these tips to make this task less strenuous.

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# Protect pipes from freezing this cold-weather season



**F**reezing pipes are a concern for homeowners who live in cold climates. When temperatures dip below freezing, the risk that pipes will freeze rises. Should a pipe burst, the damage that results can be extensive and costly.

Any pipe can freeze, but those that are directly exposed to the cold are the most vulnerable. These include pipes that feed outdoor hoses, swimming pool supply lines, pipes in unheated indoor rooms (i.e., basements or garages), and any pipes that run close to the outdoors through uninsulated walls. Water expands as it freezes, and that expansion can place pressure on whatever is trying to contain it — including pipes. To avoid serious damage, homeowners need to prepare for the arrival of colder weather and be smart about how they protect pipes.

**Drain water from swimming pools and water sprinkler supply lines prior to the onset of cold weather.** Drain water before freezing temperatures arrive, and don't forget to drain outdoor garden hoses and store them inside after watering season has come and gone.

**Close indoor water valves that feed outdoor spigots/bibs.** Open the spigot outside to allow water to drain out. Keep the outside valve open so that any water that has accumulated will continue to drain and expand outward without damaging the pipe. An insulated bib dome also can help prevent frozen pipes.

**Open cabinet doors to allow heat to reach pipes inside of cabinets.** Keep the doors open

to spaces that may not be heated or insulated as well as other areas of the home so that heat can find its way inside. Consider wrapping these pipes with an insulating material as well, such as heat tape or pipe sleeves.

**Maintain a consistent thermostat temperature.** Ensure the temperature inside your home does not drop below 55 F; otherwise, problems can arise. Use a programmable thermostat to keep the house comfortable even when you are not home. Individuals who are traveling should set the thermostat so that it will keep the home at the recommended temperature to avoid frozen pipes.

**Open one faucet.** When it is very cold outside, particularly at night, let water slowly drip from one faucet to prevent freezing. Choose the sink that is furthest from where water enters the house so water is flowing through all of the pipes to reach that faucet.

**Increase insulation around where pipes enter the house.** Use insulating foam to seal any drafts where pipes enter the house from the outdoors. Frozen pipes cannot always be avoided. Therefore, it is important that everyone in the household knows how to shut off the main water valve in the event a pipe bursts. This can prevent expensive damage to a home.



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# Home improvement projects for your fall to-do list

Homeowners know that maintaining a home can be a year-round job. No home is immune to wear and tear, and homeowners who want to protect their real estate investments should try to stay two steps ahead to ensure their homes do not succumb to the elements or become outdated and unappealing to prospective buyers. Fall has become a season that's synonymous with home improvement, but homeowners need not wait until the leaves begin changing colors to start planning their next projects. The following are a few items homeowners can add to their fall home improvement to-do lists.

## Patio cleanup

Patios are popular hangouts during spring and summer, and that can result in a lot of wear and tear. Once you store patio furniture for the winter, inspect your entire patio to determine if it needs any refurbishing. While certain patio projects may be best left for spring, you can still clean any stained areas around the grill and look for cracks in the sidewalk that need to be addressed.

Preparing for fall home improvement projects ahead of time can help homeowners complete projects in a timely manner and ensures they won't be forced to brave the winter elements when refurbishing their homes.

## Roof inspection

Less precipitation tends to fall during the warmer months than during the late fall and winter. As a result, homeowners may not be aware of leaky roofs until autumn has come and gone. But waiting until winter to inspect the roof can prove disastrous, as weather conditions will not be conducive to inspection and increased precipitation may result in potentially costly damage. Leaky roofs can be easily identified by looking for water stains on interior ceilings. Once you see a stain, you can climb onto the roof to identify the location of the leak and fix it before winter rains and snowfall turn the problem into something much larger. Inspect your ceilings for signs of leaking after a strong rainfall, and then address any leaks immediately.

## Gutter cleaning

While some homeowners prefer to delay their gutter cleaning projects until late fall, those whose homes are surrounded by trees may need to schedule two such projects. Gutters clogged with leaves and other debris can cause serious roof damage, and that damage can extend all the way inside a home. In addition, clogged gutters make great nesting areas for insects or critters. Always stand on a ladder when cleaning gutters, wearing gloves to remove items by hand and dropping leaves and debris into a trash can below. Standing on the roof and leaning over gutters greatly increases your risk of injury. If the gutters are clear when you first examine them in early fall, you can wait until later in the season to give them a complete and thorough cleaning. Once you have finished clearing the gutters, you can use a hose to run water through them and the downspouts to confirm everything is functioning properly.

**Autumn is a great time to inspect patios that might have endured some wear and tear during the heavy usage seasons of spring and summer.**

## Window and doorway inspection

Before temperatures start dropping once again, homeowners will want to inspect their windows and doorways for leaks. Over time, cracks can develop around windows and doorways, and while such cracks are rarely noticeable when the weather outside is warm, they can be quite obvious and very costly if they remain unsealed come the start of winter. Cold air can enter a home through cracks around windows and doorways, and many homeowners who don't suspect leaks may respond by turning up the thermostats in their homes. That can prove quite expensive over a full winter. Choose a windy autumn day to place a hand by windows and external doorways in your home to see if you can feel drafts. If you can, seal these cracks as soon as possible.



Photo: Washington Court House Antique Extravaganza

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# Fall for creative, family-friendly spaces

## Coffee and ice cream included

By Ashley Bunton

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### A search for the best espresso

Coffee is served daily in these creative, family-friendly spaces. With their unique features and handcrafted coffee drinks, visit once and you'll want to return again and again. Go on, get out your maps (er, GPS) and walking shoes, and take your kids along for a tour of the countryside on a road trip to discover creativity. With the autumn leaves falling outside, isn't it time to fall into a new family tradition?



A mug of "dirty" chai at Jen's Deli.

### Jen's Deli

In the heart of downtown Wilmington, Jen's Deli offers patrons a full-service, fully-stocked coffee bar. Jen's Deli sources their beans from Seven Hills Coffee Roasters in Cincinnati, choosing carefully-crafted blends of artisan coffee roasted in small batches, like the caramelized, spicy dark roast of French Sumatra.

The coffee bar keeps three types of drip coffee on hand daily, served from air pot dispensers, but for those who come inside and have a few minutes to spare, the baristas will happily serve up a traditional pour-over style coffee in a mug.

Jen's Deli is renowned in Clinton County for the aromatic flavor and quality of their chai. Chai, meaning "tea" in Hindi and "life" in Hebrew, is a balanced brew of black teas, Indian spices (masala), like cardamom, ginger, and cinnamon, lightly-sweetened, and served with milk.

Purported to nourish and comfort the mind,

body and soul with its fragrant and creamy taste, chai can be served hot or over ice. It can be made with milk or milk alternatives, like soy and almond milks. For an extra kick of caffeine, add a double shot of espresso by asking for a "dirty" chai.

Seats encircle the coffee bar where baristas can be seen making beverages. Window seats along the front windows are available and, outside, tables adorn the sidewalk in front of the building, which is situated in a National Register of Historic Places district. Here, a unique view of the Heritage Harvesters Mural can be seen at the intersection of Routes 68 and 22.

And just next door, a small empty lot was bequeathed into a park, and inside those ivy-covered walls is a Little Free Library. Here, kids and adults can leave a book in the Little Free Library and take a new one, so remember to bring an extra book or two for the exchange.

The space is expansive enough to accommodate families yet maintains a comfortable, quiet feeling of inclusion from the outside world. The kid-friendly environment, with games, toys, and activities abound, makes this sweet spot a creative space your kids will enjoy while you try a hot chai, dirty or not.

### Beans N Cream

Tucked away in Greene County, Beans N Cream in Cedarville is a gorgeously-renovated coffee shop in a building that was, at once, a bank. Beans N Cream sources their coffee from Crimson Cup Coffee & Tea in Columbus, a group of self-professed coffee geeks who turn imported green coffee beans into roasted perfection.

The natural light from those big front windows keeps the space bright and cheery. Intricate items have been placed beneath some glass-topped tables in the room and items on display are certain to start a conversation or two.

Coffee beverages are served at the counter, including full-bodied drinks like the white mocha latte and café mocha latte and fresh, deeply rich espresso. On most days, they have traditional



Inside Beans N Cream in Cedarville, kids will love the second-level loft-style seating area.



Jen's Deli in Wilmington is a short walk from a Little Free Library.

# Your guide to proper tree pruning



**Pruning is a job that may be tackled by do-it-yourselfers, but sometimes larger tasks are best left to a professional tree trimming service.**

Trimming and pruning can be handled by do-it-yourselfers if the branches are smaller and more manageable. Practice on thinner branches before moving on to thicker ones, which may require extra help. Branches may be heavy, and it takes a guided hand to ensure the branches fall in a safe manner so they do not cause damage or injury.

Branches also need to be trimmed properly to facilitate good healing. Trees will form a callus bark covering over cuts to keep out disease and decay, much as a scab forms over a person's wound. Damaging the bark on a tree while pruning may interfere with that process, so do-it-yourselfers need to take the time to prune correctly.

According to Danny Lipford, home improvement expert and host of the radio program "Today's Homeowner," larger limbs may require three cuts instead of one. The first cut is a small notch in the bottom of the limb, around two to three feet from the trunk and about one-quarter of the way through. This helps prevent the bark from splitting. A relief cut is then made a few inches away from the notch cut, and goes all the way through.

This removes the weight of the branch so that the final cut can be made without the branch splitting and falling. The final cut is made right where the limb extrudes from the branch collar, or the swollen bump that then forms into the tree limb. Follow the slant of the branch collar when making the cut. Smaller or thinner branches may not require the same three steps, but every effort should be made to reduce injury to the tree.

When deciding how much to prune, less is usually more. All pruning can put some level of stress on the tree and increase its vulnerability to disease and insect infestation. A good rule of thumb is to never prune more than 25 percent of the crown. According to experts at TreeHelp.com, living branches should comprise at least two-thirds the height of the tree. In some instances, the rules may need to be bent if trees are interfering with utility lines or to meet community laws. However, always prune minimally to avoid damaging the tree.

The right tools also make the job safer and easier. Use a pole pruner and lopper, rope saws, folding pruner, and a bucksaw. A chainsaw can be used in some instances, especially when pruning larger limbs. Always disinfect pruning tools after you're done to prevent the spread of disease to other trees.

Consider hiring a professional tree service if pruning proves beyond your capabilities. Doing so is safe and often well worth the investment.

Trees may require pruning for a variety of reasons. Storms may have damaged branches, necessitating a pruning. In other instances, trees may have outgrown their yards, overpowering the landscape. Autumn and winter, when trees largely go dormant and fallen leaves make it easier to see the branches beneath, may be prime times to prune. Pruning during the dormant period also minimizes sap loss and stress to the tree, and can help cut down on the growth of fungi. In addition, insects are less likely to be problematic during the colder months of the year.

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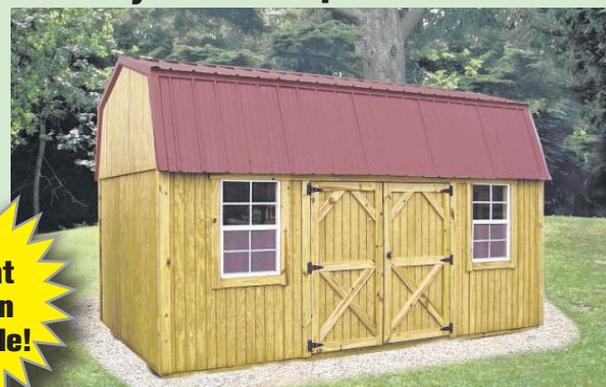
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# How to recognize water damage in a home



**Plumbing problems may ultimately result in costly water damage.**

Homes are potentially susceptible to a host of problems. While unforeseen problems can prove costly, homeowners who keep attentive eyes on their homes can oftentimes discover small problems before they escalate. Water damage is a potentially costly problem that can afflict any home. Old homes tend to be most susceptible to water damage, and that damage can manifest itself in various ways. The following are some telltale signs of water damage that should give prospective home buyers pause and compel current homeowners to seek professional assistance as soon as possible.

## Stains

Many prospective home buyers have been disappointed by the sight of water stains during an open house or home inspection. Water stains tend to be on ceilings and/or walls. Stains on ceilings tend to be round, while wall stains are straight lines down the wall that may or may not have forced paint to peel. Water stains are not necessarily indicative of a major problem, but homeowners should have the stains examined by a professional while potential buyers should direct their home inspector's attention to the stains.

## Deteriorating wood

Wood around windows or doors that is deteriorating may indicate water problems. The wood might be deteriorating because water is infiltrating the wood during storms. Baseboards and molding that is dilapidated or beginning to deteriorate may also indicate water damage.



## Buckled drywall or wood

Drywall or wood that is buckled or beginning to buckle is another potential indicator of water damage. Drywall buckles when it gets wet, and that is often a sign that there is a leak behind the drywall. Severely buckled drywall will feel as if it has ridges. Wood also buckles when it is exposed to excess moisture, and this can usually be felt when walking on the wood barefoot or in socks.

## Odor

Sometimes water damage is best detected by the smell test. Homeowners who notice the smell of mold or mildew in rooms that previously never emanated such odors might have homes that are in the early stages of water problems. The water damage might be behind the walls, where mold is beginning to form thanks to water damage. Older homes tend to be musty, but call in a professional if you notice that mustiness is more pungent than usual.

Water damage is a potentially costly problem, especially if it goes unnoticed for months or even years. Homeowners and prospective home buyers should be on the lookout for signs of water damage before problems escalate and require expensive repairs.



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Beans N Cream in Cedarville is in a building that was once a bank.

## COFFEE

From page 5

clubhouse, where they only want to leave if they have to go to the restroom.

This open, laid-back cafe is a peaceful space for families with kids of all ages and welcoming to road-weary travelers and hikers, who may like to visit the close-by Indian Mound Reserve and Cedar Cliff Falls. And for kids (and maybe adults, too) who would like nothing more but to unpack their colored pencils after a cross-county road trip, there's always ice cream.



The Emporium Wines and Underdog Cafe in Yellow Springs is a community space for conversation.

### The Emporium Wines and Underdog Cafe

In downtown Yellow Springs on Route 68, The Emporium has an open door policy, meaning everyone is welcome, and it's a gathering space for people interested in enjoying a good conversation with a mug of coffee. The Emporium's coffee is sourced from Seven Hills Coffee Roasters in Cincinnati, and on red lined shelves at the entrance more than a dozen jars sit filled with whole beans, waiting for coffee connoisseurs to pick up a pound, more or less, of beans to take home.

The shop's ambiance is guided by colorful yellow walls that display art made by diverse and local members of the community and region, from children artists to adults. Half-wine shop and half-coffee shop, it's a shared space that combines unique flavors of taste and sight, but according to the owner, they have a minimalist philosophy.

The Emporium doesn't offer flavorings for lattes, but they do make espresso, and combined with milk, serve tasty Americanos, hot or iced. Full-bodied and medium-roasted brewed coffees are available from self-serve air pots at the counter. Cold brew coffee is year-round here, and is steeped overnight in a special process to extract the full flavor of the roast.

Kurt Miyazaki, owner, said it's a community store for people to meet other people and exchange ideas.

"That's been my interest in cafes. It's a cliché, but it's fewer of the professionals with their laptops, and it's more of people having conversations."

-Kurt Miyazaki

"That's been my interest in cafes. It's a cliché, but it's fewer of the professionals with their laptops, and it's more of people having conversations," said Miyazaki. The seating offers quaintness for close conversations and the tables along the wall feel private, each lit with a small lamp. A table for larger groups is in the center. In the back, there are couches surrounding a kids' area stocked with children's books and toys for the smallest of hands. Rows and rows of used books flow along the back walls.

"My goal was to make a space where creative people could meet other creative people. A writer could meet an artist, and it happens. We try to keep these creative spaces where people can meet other people. That's what I love about this small community," said Miyazaki. Seven days a week, the doors open at 7 a.m., and you'll want to get there early before the

fresh-baked dark chocolate or cherry-filled croissants are sold out. Step away outside and you'll find the bike trail, and in a short walk, the Glen Helen Nature Preserve Museum, which opens on the weekends and supplies maps of the thousand-acre preserve. There's a display of insects and a live turtle for kids to examine and when the temperatures are cool, the ranger will build a toasty fire in the indoor stone fireplace. There's plenty of seating around it for those who want to read, drink coffee, or bird watch.

### Ready, set, go!

Whether you and your family are looking for a tucked away coffee shop clubhouse, a muralist view in a historic district, or to have a good conversation and learn something new, these coffee shops are creative spaces that have the care of your family in mind. The places mentioned offer food, too, including kid-friendly breakfast and lunch menus, but their real treat is in the simplicity and comfort they offer for adventurous, laid-back families. And there's even ice cream.

Reach Ashley at the Record-Herald (740) 313-0355 or on Twitter @ashbunton

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## Closing the pool for another season

Closing a pool at the end of the swimming season can be bittersweet. Homeowners may be sad to bid adieu to the lazy days of splashing and swimming, but ready to embrace the cooler weather and the beauty of autumn. Before the leaves begin to fall from the trees, pool owners must prepare to close, or winterize, their pools.

**Gather your supplies.** Make a list of the supplies you need to close the pool. Having everything on hand will make the process far more efficient than trying to wing it. Closing a pool can be a large job, so it pays to have some extra hands available. Enlist some helpers who will be available to hand you materials or to assist with placing the cover on the pool — which can be challenging to do on your own.

**Don't wait until the last minute to purchase necessary chemicals.** The chemicals used throughout the season will also be needed in the winterization process. Therefore, be sure you have enough before pool supplies become difficult to find in area stores. These include sanitizer, algaecide and pH-balancing chemicals.

**Clean the entire pool area.** Ensuring the pool water and the surface of the pool is clean can make reopening the pool easy. Vacuum the pool thoroughly, removing any debris and organic matter that can contribute to algae growth. Don't forget to brush down the walls of the pool and clean the jets and area where the filter skimmer meets the pool. Pool walls have plenty of crevices where algae can hide and multiply.

**Test the water.** Leading pool products manufacturer Hayward recommends adjusting the pH to between 7.2 and 7.8 to prevent stains, scaling and algae growth. Alkalinity should be 80 to 125 ppm for plaster/gunite pools and 125 to 150 ppm for other pool types. Test the level of available chlorine, and super-chlorinate the pool to maintain a sanitation level of at least 4 ppm. Once the pool cover is on, the amount of chlorine that escapes due to sunlight and evaporation will decrease. An algaecide may be used, if desired, as well. In very cold climates, a pool-water antifreeze may be necessary. Check with your pool supply retailer for more information.



**Run the filter.** Run the filter at least 24 hours before disassembling the filter for the season. This will help circulate any chemicals added through the water.

**Drain the pool's water to the appropriate level.** Water should fall just below the skimmer opening. Many pools do not need to be completely drained for the winter.

**Shut off the filter pump, heater and any other equipment.** Let all water drain out and allow equipment to dry before storing them away. Follow the manufacturer's directions for lubrication and covering. Install freeze plugs if you choose to use them.

**Adjust electricity settings.** Turn off the circuit to outdoor outlets that feed the pool equipment, testing to make sure the power is off.

**Put accessories away.** Remove any ladders, diving boards, slides, external drain lines, and other recreational materials from the pool, storing them in a garage or shed so they are not subjected to potentially harsh winter weather.

**Inflate air pillows to roughly 80 percent full if you will be using them.** Gather your helpers to attach the pool cover or leaf catcher net. Secure it thoroughly with anchors, water bags, wire fasteners, or whatever method is applicable for the cover and pool type. Remember, a quality pool cover will last for several years and keep leaves, dust and other unwanted items out of the water.

Come early autumn, homeowners can begin closing their pools to keep them secure and clean until the next swimming season begins.

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# Transform spaces into cozy retreats

Cool weather often drives people to spend more hours indoors than they do during the warmer months. Autumn is a time to winterize gardens, put away lawn furniture and prepare for the holiday season. Autumn also provides the perfect opportunity to begin home interior projects. Many people decide to redecorate their homes to reflect each season. When temperatures change, it's time to transition from the light colors and breezy fabrics symbolic of summer to thicker, darker materials that evoke coziness. With some inspiration and a little know-how, any homeowner or apartment dweller can cozy up a space in time for fall and winter.



**Invest in area rugs.** While wood floors can look beautiful and work well with many different design styles, wood can feel chilly underfoot. Thick area rugs add warmth to a room and can help it look more lived-in. Area rugs also help a room appear more cohesive, coordinating with other colors in a space and providing a visual border.

**Practice layering in rooms.** An affordable and relatively easy way to make a room seem more cozy is to layer fabrics and other accents. Layers can include throws and blankets. Remove place mats from the dining room table and use them on accent tables or an ottoman in the living room. Table runners also can add a splash of color to the top of bedroom dressers.

**Play with texture.** Look for fabrics that boast texture and can add a tactile feel to spaces.

When used on throw pillows or small accents, faux fur can create that cozy cabin feel. Draperies made from nubby fabrics or those with grooves and ridges can add dimension to a room as well. Even a lampshade made of an unusual fabric, such as a waffle-patterned material, can add a little depth and warmth to a space.

**Reevaluate your lighting.** Lighting a space is more than just flipping on a switch. Finding the right balance of lighting fixtures can instantly transform the feel of a room. Create more warmth and a cozy feel by switching out bulbs from cooler shades to warmer ones

— those that give off yellow and pink hues rather than cool blues. Accent lighting helps establish a comfortable space for curling up and reading a good book. Spot lighting, such as fixtures that are trained on artwork or inside of a curio or china cabinet, also can set a more welcoming mood.

**Install a bookshelf and start a book collection.** Piles and stacked books can add warmth to any space. Books evoke the hallowed halls of schools and quiet nooks in the library. Fill shelves with books interspersed with additional design accents, and you will instantly make a room feel more inviting.

**Choose dark paint.** Do not feel nervous about incorporating deeper shades in rooms. Dark colors give rooms a more enclosed feel than lighter colors, and that can create a warm and cozy feeling. This works particularly well in larger spaces that feel vast and empty. If you're scared to paint all of your walls, try a darker shade below a chair rail or just paint one accent wall.

**Add architectural elements.** Think about adding rich moldings to crown the ceilings or to frame doorways. If you have the space for a nook, create a window seat beneath a picture window or add a bench and cushions in a corner for a nice escape spot. Use the colder weather as an opportunity to reinvent some of the rooms in your home. With paint, texture, fabric, lighting, and more, rooms can be quickly transformed into cozy respites from the cold.



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# 3 potential trouble signs for driveways

Though they are often easy to overlook, driveways are durable parts of a home that can greatly impact a home's curb appeal. Driveways endure quite a bit of wear and tear over their lifespans, and homeowners who have not given their driveways much thought may want to start looking for potential trouble signs that indicate a need for some driveway maintenance. According to the online home improvement resource HomeAdvisor.com, the average cost of a driveway installation in 2015 was just under \$3,700. Those costs are influenced by a host of factors, including the size of the driveway and the material it's made of. Damaged driveways do not necessarily need to be replaced, as some may just need minor repairs. But homeowners who see any of the following trouble signs in their driveways may want to consult a professional contractor to determine what their next steps should be.



## 1. Potholes

Potholes might be most often associated with heavily trafficked roadways, but even driveways are susceptible to potholes. As the ground beneath the driveway expands and contracts, the pavement above that ground weakens and becomes more susceptible to damage. That damage may ultimately lead to large chunks of the driveway breaking down, creating holes as a result. Homeowners who live in areas that experience heavy snowfall may see their driveways develop potholes after they are shoveled or plowed. Potholes that are not fixed may damage vehicles that drive on the pavement, and potholes may even expand over time.

## 2. Accumulation of water

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## 3. Cracks

Cracking is one of the more noticeable issues that can plague driveways. Many driveways experience cracking as materials inevitably succumb to the elements. Driveway cracks may develop for various reasons, including poor initial installation. Tree roots that grow beneath the driveway surface may also contribute to cracking as the driveways ultimately succumb to the pressure created by the growing roots. Some cracks may prove less problematic than others, but homeowners should still speak with a contractor if they notice their driveway is starting to succumb to cracks. Driveways may not draw the attention of homeowners too often, but damaged driveways that go ignored may ultimately lead to very costly problems.



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## All About Fall

*Autumn is a season of many changes, with some of the most notable including the dramatic multicolored displays that occur just prior to trees shedding their leaves. It's also a time of year when many people feel reenergized by cooler temperatures and spend many hours outdoors enjoying all that fall has to offer.*

*Whether one is collecting leaves, picking apples, exploring corn mazes, or driving the countryside enjoying the foliage, autumn is full of fun ways to make the season that much more enjoyable.*



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