**Use the Homeowner Water Guide Fall Checklist to prepare your home and yard for winter**

Wondering how to prepare your home for winter? The Homeowner Water Guide Fall Checklist is a great place to start.

You’ll find reminders and tips like:

* Check your toilets, taps, humidifier, hot water heater, water softener and other water using devices for leaks.
* Turn off your outdoor water supply and winterize your irrigation system to avoid winter leaks.
* Check the Watering 101 Guides to find out when to stop watering plants, shrubs, trees and lawns.
* Leave plant debris in plant beds over winter to provide habitat for pollinators.

When it comes to residential and household leaks, toilets, faucets and outdoor irrigation are the most common culprits. Our library of Homeowner Water Guides provides step-by-step guidance to identify and repair leaks in our homes, ideas to improve water efficiency and tips to prepare yards for winter.

Together, we can make every drop count.

To find everything you need, including the Fall Checklist, visit [calgary.ca/waterguide](https://www.calgary.ca/UEP/Water/Pages/Water-and-wastewater-systems/Homeowner-Water-Guide.aspx?redirect=/waterguide).

**Join the climate conversation at the 6th annual Calgary Climate Symposium**

The City is hosting its 6th annual Calgary Climate Symposium to continue the conversation about climate change, share how it affects Calgarians and how we can work together to ensure no one is left behind. Connect with community leaders, climate experts and more for a series of unique, free learning opportunities between Oct. 21 – Oct. 25, 2024.

We invite you to join Mayor Gondek and Climate and Environment Director, Carolyn Bowen, on Oct. 21 at 10 a.m., as they kick off the week with an opening speech at the Calgary Public Library.

This year’s Climate Symposium theme is ‘Innovating for a Resilient and Equitable Future: Calgary’s Path to Climate Solutions’.

The Calgary Climate Symposium sessions will explore:

* Understanding climate change and the effects of climate hazards on Calgarians and the natural environment.
* How Calgary can position itself for a low carbon future and leverage economic opportunities.
* How our communities can take collective action to reduce the impacts of climate change and build a more resilient city.

Everyone has a part to play in preserving and protecting Calgary’s natural environment. Join the conversation to learn how your community can take collective actions to increase our climate resiliency and create a more equitable future for all Calgarians.
We look forward to seeing you in-person at the opening ceremony and online. Recordings of the sessions will be available on [calgary.ca/climatesymposium](https://www.calgary.ca/environment/events/climate-symposium.html) in November.

To learn more and register for sessions, visit [calgary.ca/climatesymposium](https://www.calgary.ca/environment/events/climate-symposium.html).

**Protect your pipes**

The holidays are a time for food, family and fun. The aromas of gravy, turkey and bacon may come to mind.

It’s important to remember that any fats, oils and grease (FOG) that travels down the drain, can block your pipes and may result in messy and costly sewage backups.

Remember to**:**

* **Cool it**: in a disposable can or container.
* **Scrape it**: into a certified, compostable bag or paper bag.
* **Compost it**: place the rolled up or tied up bag in your green cart.

Smaller amounts of FOG can be wiped with a paper towel and placed in your green cart. Learn more at [calgary.ca/protectyourpipes](https://www.calgary.ca/water/wastewater/protect-your-pipes.html).

**Let’s share the road safely and look out for each other.**

October’s traffic safety focus is **Pedestrian Safety**.

Most pedestrian collisions happen when we’re rushing to get to work, school, an activity or home.

Weather conditions and daylight changes in the fall make it harder for people to see.

When driving or cycling, be ready in case pedestrians make unexpected moves.

* Never pass a stopped vehicle at a crosswalk.
* Pay attention to pedestrians when turning.
* Watch for children. Drive cautiously through areas where children could be walking or playing.
* Be patient – especially with seniors or pedestrians with disabilities who need time to cross the road.

Pedestrians: Don’t assume drivers see you. When waiting to cross a road, make sure cars have come to a stop before proceeding. Make eye contact and wave.

* Don’t walk distracted. Keep your head up.
* Walk on sidewalks. If there’s no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.
* When walking to train stations, look both ways when crossing the tracks and obey traffic signals.
* Use **point, pause, proceed** to let drivers know you’re entering a crosswalk.

It’s important to teach children how to safely cross the street. Practice safe crossing skills to help them learn how to navigate our streets safely.

* Remind kids not to run into the street or cross between parked cars
* Help kids to identify and understand car turn signals and back up lights and to be alert for cars turning or backing up.
* Teach kids to put phones, headphones and devices down when crossing the street.

**Fire Prevention Week: Are Your Smoke Alarms Ready to Save Lives?**

Fire Prevention Week is here and this year, the Calgary Fire Department (CFD) is focusing on one of the most vital tools in home fire safety: working smoke alarms. The CFD is urging everyone to make sure their smoke alarms are up to the task of protecting their homes and loved ones.

Smoke alarms are more than just devices; they’re lifesavers. Statistics show that the risk of dying in a home fire is reduced by over 50 per cent when working smoke alarms are present. Despite this, many tragic home fire deaths occur in residences without smoke alarms or with alarms that aren’t functioning. That’s why this year’s Fire Prevention Week theme is **Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!**

Here’s what you can do right now to ensure your smoke alarms are ready:

* Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home, including the basement.
* Make sure your smoke alarms meet the needs of everyone in your household, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
* Test your smoke alarms at least once a month by pressing the test button.
* If your smoke alarms are 10 years old or don’t respond when tested, it’s time to replace them.

This Fire Prevention Week, take a few minutes to check your smoke alarms. A small effort today can save lives tomorrow.