

COUNTDOWN TO

Thanksgiving

Winterize YOUR HOME

Fall is here and homeowners who take time to do small easy-to-do tasks will benefit from lower energy bills and have a well maintained home that retains its value.

1. Check all exterior caulking and weather stripping, especially at doors and windows. Replace as necessary. You will be happy you prevented those uncomfortable cold spots when the weather gets frigid.
2. Have your furnace checked by a professional, including carbon monoxide testing for the furnace and the water heater. Be sure to change the filter.
3. Drain a bucket of water from the water heater, to remove sediment and improve performance.
4. Have the shingles on your roof checked for damage and check the caulking around the flashing of every pipe sticking out of the roof. Minor repair now could prevent a leak later when the repair could be more difficult and costly.
5. After all the leaves have fallen, clean your gutters. Check exterior area drains. If leaves block the drains, water will pool up and cause trouble.

THANKSGIVING WEEK - MONDAY:

Defrost your turkey (if it's frozen). Remember that you have to allow 24 hours for every 5 pounds if you're going to defrost a turkey in the refrigerator. That means a 15-pound turkey will take three full days, so get started on Monday.

SUGGESTION: If you miss that deadline, you can defrost the bird faster in a sink full of cold water, allowing about half an hour for each pound of turkey and changing the water occasionally. (It will still take 7 1/2 hours for that 15-pounder, so do it after work on Wednesday, then refrigerate it.)

THANKSGIVING WEEK - TUESDAY:

Do your final food shopping. Make a cooking schedule for Thanksgiving Day. If guests are

invited for 5P.M., count backward from a 6P.M. dinner, writing down the time everything goes into the oven or the microwave. Don't forget the dishes that will have to be reheated.

THANKSGIVING WEEK - WEDNESDAY:

Set the table. Clear out the coat closet for guest coats. Clean the guest bathroom. If possible, make it off-limits to the family. Take the gravy out of the freezer and put it in the refrigerator so it can defrost.

THANKSGIVING DAY:

You'll be so caught up that you'll be looking around for things to do.

Have a great Thanksgiving!

**“Courage is not
the lack of fear.
It is acting in
spite of it.”**

– Mark Twain

Single Family Residential				
Santa Cruz	Closed Sales	Average DOM	Median Price	%LP Rec'd
August 2009	160	101	497,750	97.47
September 2009	151	86	535,000	98.02
Condos				
Santa Cruz	Closed Sales	Average DOM	Median Price	%LP Rec'd
August 2009	29	94	309,000	98.78
September 2009	34	88	304,000	98.02