

Trusted Home Essentials - Mechanic Verified Checklist

1. HVAC System

- **Task:** Change HVAC filter.
- **Frequency:** Every 90 days (Monthly if you have pets).
- **Why:** Dirty filters freeze coils and kill compressors.
- **Pro Tool:** [Filterbuy Merv 8 or 11 Filters \(Buy in bulk\)](#).

2. Water Heater

- **Task:** Flush sediment from tank.
- **Frequency:** Annually.
- **Why:** Sediment cooks the bottom of your tank, causing leaks and inefficiency.
- **Pro Tool:** [Heavy Duty Rubber Garden Hose](#) & [5-Gallon Bucket](#) (clear bucket lets you see the sediment).
- *(Note: Use a [Flush Kit](#) only if you have a Tankless unit).*

3. Garbage Disposal

- **Task:** De-grease and clean.
- **Frequency:** Monthly.
- **Why:** Grease buildup causes jams and odors.
- **Pro Tool:** [Affresh Disposal Cleaner](#) or 2 Cups Ice + 1 Cup Vinegar.

4. Dryer Vent

- **Task:** Inspect and clean exhaust line.
- **Frequency:** Every 6 months.
- **Why:** #1 cause of appliance fires.
- **Pro Tool:** [Holikme 30-Foot Drill-Powered Vent Brush](#).

5. Chimney & Flue

- **Task:** Inspect for creosote.
- **Frequency:** Annually (Before first fire).
- **Why:** Creosote buildup causes chimney fires.
- **Pro Tool:** [Rutland Creosote Remover Stick](#) (Maintenance) + [Professional Sweep](#) (Inspection).

6. Septic System

- **Task:** Pump tank & inspect baffles.
- **Frequency:** Every 3-5 years (Treat monthly).
- **Why:** Solids overflow into the leach field, costing \$10k+ to replace.
- **Pro Tool:** [Green Gobbler Septic Saver Pods](#) (Monthly maintenance).

7. Heating (Radiators)

- **Task:** Bleed baseboard heaters.
- **Frequency:** First cold snap of the season.
- **Why:** Air bubbles block heat transfer; makes the boiler work harder.
- **Pro Tool:** [Square-Head Radiator Key](#).

8. Sump Pump

- **Task:** "The Bucket Test" (Pour water in to force a cycle).
- **Frequency:** Before spring rains.
- **Why:** Pumps seize from inactivity. You won't know until your basement floods.
- **Pro Tool:** [The Basement Watchdog Battery Backup System](#).

9. Attic Inspection

- **Task:** Check for moisture/pests.
- **Frequency:** Quarterly.
- **Why:** Catching a roof leak early saves thousands in mold remediation.
- **Pro Tool:** [Rechargeable LED Headlamp](#) (Hands-free inspection).
- *(Note: Use [Great Stuff Pestblock foam](#) to seal gaps).*

10. Safety Systems

- **Task:** Change Smoke/CO Batteries.
- **Frequency:** Every 6 months (Daylight Savings).
- **Why:** Sensors degrade over time.
- **Pro Tool:** [Duracell Procell 9V](#) (Industrial grade).