The Autumn Cleaning Checklist

The jobs that are pleasant in October and miserable in January, and the four that cost money if you skip them.

> If you only have one morning, do the four that cost money and stop. The rest will keep.

THE FOUR THAT COST MONEY

- [ ] Bleed the radiators, run the heating on a warm day
- [ ] Clear the gutters before the first freeze
- [ ] Draught strip any door or window you can feel
- [ ] Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, note the date

THE WARDROBE SWAP

- [ ] Not worn once all summer: it goes now, not into storage
- [ ] Needs repair: repaired this week or gone
- [ ] Wash before storing, moths want the marks not the fabric
- [ ] Store breathable, never sealed plastic

SOFT FURNISHINGS AND GLASS

- [ ] Curtains washed or aired, tops vacuumed
- [ ] Cushion covers and throws through the machine
- [ ] Mattress vacuumed and rotated
- [ ] Rugs beaten outside
- [ ] Windows inside, plus frames and sills

THE OUTDOOR HALF HOUR

- [ ] Furniture cleaned and covered or brought in
- [ ] Hose drained and disconnected
- [ ] Tools under cover
- [ ] Pots emptied or raised off the ground

NOTES

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