

# Fall Care For Heat-Damaged Yards

Family Features

Extreme weather over the summer left a lot of lawns and landscapes showing signs of damage. With some time, patience and work, it's possible to get your yard back in order and ready for the winter.

"Signs of typical summer wear and tear on lawns were amplified as they were stressed by the above-normal temperatures experienced across the United States," said Ben Hamza, Ph.D., director of technical operations at TruGreen, the nation's largest professional lawn care service. "Fall is the ideal time to nurture lawns and landscapes to help ensure your yard's health for spring."

## ASSESS

Thoroughly walk your property and inspect the lawn, trees and shrubs. Note patchy areas, where grass has thinned out or is in need of valuable nutrients and appears as light green. Also look for weed and plant pest infestations and overgrown trees and shrubs, especially those with the potential for interfering with roof and power lines. Consider a qualified expert, such as TruGreen, to properly gauge your lawn and landscape needs.

## REPLACE

Fall is the right time to seed bare lawn areas and overseed existing grass to improve lawn thickness and density. After a detailed inspection of your lawn's trouble spots, your TruGreen specialist could recommend one of several reseeding techniques:

- Spot Seeding — fills in small areas that are thin or infested with weeds.
- Overseeding — generally used for larger areas where the turf is thin, but not bare.
- Slit Seeding — a premium service using a specialized machine to cut slits into the soil and sow turf seeds directly into the slits.

Lightly rake an inch of surface soil to remove dead debris and properly prepare the area for seeding. Choose a grass seed that is



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the same type as the grass already growing in your lawn. Lightly apply seed to the soil surface and gently pack to firm the seed into the soil. Apply a light layer of straw or seeding mulch to encourage rapid seed germination. Water lightly until the seed has fully emerged. Do not apply crabgrass preventive to newly seeded areas of your lawn.

## FEED

Fall feeding gives roots of lawns, trees and shrubs the energy needed to prepare for a healthy spring green revival. Be sure to keep fertilizer on target to prevent run-off. Using a trained specialist, such as TruGreen, for insect and disease control measures customized to your region will help trees and shrubs thrive. If you fertilize your own lawn, make sure you read and follow the product directions and sweep all fertilizer granules that may reach pavement back onto your lawn.

## MAINTAIN

Throughout the fall, there are things you can do to maintain your yard's appearance and health:

- Rake and clean. Keeping leaves and debris cleared off your lawn will keep your lawn healthier.
- Continue to clear away debris that can become matted and damage your lawn.
- Inspect your landscape mulch in the fall. Clean up beds, refresh mulch and make sure that no more than two to three inches of mulch remains in the beds.
- Do not walk on frost-covered lawns. Doing so may cause brown footprints to appear later. These footprints may remain visible until spring green-up begins.

With these tips, your lawn and landscape can recover from the difficult summer and spring back into shape next year. For more expert advice, visit [www.TruGreen.com](http://www.TruGreen.com).

# Getting Your Home Ready For Winter

Family Features

The change in seasons should bring about more than just a change of wardrobe. It's important to check out your appliances and home systems now in order to help prevent unnecessary repairs when you need those systems the most.

To help you get your home ready for the winter, American Home Shield, one of the nation's leading providers of home warranty services, offers some tips to help you maintain your heating unit and plumbing system to ensure they're ready before the temperatures drop:

To prepare the heating system:

- Have your system professionally cleaned and inspected.
- Move any furniture that has been placed over floor vents away to clear the air flow.
- To ensure efficient operation, check your system's air filters and clean or change them regularly.



• It's always important to check out the manufacturer's maintenance recommendations for your specific unit. This information is typically available online and in your owner's guide.

- Have a test run. Don't wait until it's cold outside to turn on

your heat. Turn it on now and let it run for at least a half-hour, so you can listen for any unusual noises and make sure it is working properly.

To prepare the plumbing system:

- Insulate pipes prone to

freezing, such as those near an outside wall; those in unheated areas of your home; or any exposed plumbing such as outside faucets.

- Keep your water meter box covered with its lid to prevent the meter from freezing during cold periods.
- Be sure you know where your master valve is located so you can quickly turn your home's water off if a line does break. In most homes, this valve will be located near the water heater, near the clothes washer, or where the water service line enters your home.
- Wrap outdoor or crawl space pipes with electric heat tape or insulation to prevent freezing.

"Plumbing and heating systems are like any other machinery; they require some basic maintenance to keep them functioning properly," said Dave Quandt, Senior VP of Field Services for American Home Shield.

# An Interesting Summer

BY CAROL MAYER GUTHMILLER  
P&D Correspondent

Last winter we spent three months in Arizona. Arthritis and increasing intolerance of the cold has forced us to find a warmer spot to "wait out the winter." We chose a place 50 miles south of Flagstaff where our children had settled in. The town is named Camp Verde. It was springlike the whole time we were there. It was good to be able to walk outside without bundling up like you were in the North Pole. Ice was not an issue, although early in the spring a water fountain did freeze in Phoenix, that made national news.

It was great to get away from the farm hassle, but as the winter months wore on, I began to really miss the grandkids back home. I had the feelings of "homesickness" like I hadn't felt since my college years when I was housed in a dorm and was missing my parents and my home. Maybe living in a dorm room and living in a fifth wheeler do the same thing to me.

When we arrived home in the spring, I gave a special "summer invite" to all 17 of the grandkids, knowing we'd be leaving them again when winter set in. Three of the older kids were summer camp counselors, so we didn't see much of them, but the rest came to visit us sporadically.

Nineteen-year-old Daniel worked on the farm and lived with us three months so we saw a lot of him. He has spent most of his growing up years in the country of Turkey. Children cannot get jobs in that country until they are 19, so Daniel had little experience. He had a crash course in adulthood. Guess we could have called it Adulthood 101.

Daniel is a good kid to have around. He would be up at 6:30 making his own breakfast and anyone else's if they so desired. He was willing to learn, very polite, and just a good kid. When the summer began, he would come in at 9:00, eat his evening meal, shower and then along about 10:00 would say "Grandma, do you want to watch a movie with me?" My initial reaction was 10:00 and you want to see a movie? You have no idea how old I am. But I went along with it. The problem being, what he thought was a

good movie and what I thought was good were two completely different ideas. This went on for a couple of evenings until he found one he thought I would like: "My Fellow Americans" a comedy with James Garner and Jack Lemmon. I had prepared for this movie with a nap in the afternoon. I was really getting into it when I turned to see if Daniel was enjoying it and he had fallen asleep. I wanted to see how the movie ended and didn't get to bed until 1:00 in the morning. Needless to say, I was not up to enjoy Daniel's breakfast at 6:30 the next morning.

The Brenholt family came one week for Bible School and another week to paint the barn. Katie, Alex and Benjamin and their mother helped with that project.

We had a couple of visits from the Lippert family in Iowa, splitting up the family, since their group is so large.

A final hurrah to summer, the whole Lippert crew came to finish up painting the barn and the east side of the house. I was so happy to see those projects completed.

It was a Sunday morning. The Lippert family had gone home. As a matter of fact, everyone had gone home. The house was completely quiet, except for Grandpa and me. I love those moments of hauntingly quiet. I notice I am enjoying them more and more. I was slowly sipping a cup of coffee on the living room couch rejoicing that all the painting projects were done, that my summer "invite" was over. We had the house to ourselves. I was really in a celebratory mood. I was rejoicing inwardly about all that had been accomplished this summer. The peace that permeated the house was absolutely beautiful. My house was in order and it would stay that way.

My jubilation soon ended when I thought I heard someone come in the back door.

"Gwamma, awe you home? Wets pway twactows!" It was three-year-old Luke, who lives six miles from us. His father was picking up some sweet corn and Luke had to stay with us a short time until the job was finished.

Grandkids are great, but so is peace and quiet. I'm beginning to think I will be ready for Arizona when it is time. Maybe I can put up with a little homesickness.

# Protect Your Deck Now So You Can Enjoy It Later

Family Features

Colder temperatures, snow, and ice can do some damage on the exterior of your home, especially to wooden decks. Harsh winter weather can deteriorate the wood, ruin the look, and depreciate the value of your deck. Take extra care of it now so that your deck is in tip-top shape for backyard BBQs in the spring. There are three steps to winterizing your deck:

First, you should give your deck a good wash. There are a number of substances that can get on your deck during the summer that could cause problems during the winter. For example, mold and mildew can cause erosion on various types of wood. Cleaning the deck can also prevent dry rot, which is wood decay caused by fungi. Start by removing furniture and planters for storage.

Moisture caught between the deck and planters or furniture can seep into the wood during the winter and stain the surface. Sweep off dirt and debris while making sure to clear the space between the planks for ventilation. A leaf blower can help you clear the sur-



face quickly. Then wash your deck with deck soap — you can find specific formulas for each type of wood. After washing, give it a good rinse with the hose.

The next thing you want to do is restore the deck by stripping and refinishing the wood. It is important to strip and refinish the deck before staining to ensure sealants adhere to the wood and

cover evenly. Power washing the deck is recommended to remove old paint and stains. Make sure to maintain a consistent distance from the surface of the deck at all times to produce a smooth surface.

The last and most important step is protecting the deck with water repellent stain. Stains or sealants prevent water, snow, etc.,

from penetrating the wood and causing decay. Ask your hardware or home improvement store about the best high-quality stain for your type of deck.

Using a paint sprayer, such as the new Wagner Power Painter with EZ Tilt Technology, can make staining faster and provide a professional finish. A paint sprayer can also help you cover those hard to reach areas like railings, posts and underneath the deck. Spray on a non-windy day to prevent overspray, keep a consistent distance away from the surface, and maintain a steady speed while spraying.

The deck is one of your home's greatest assets. Prolong the life of your investment by winterizing it each year. For more project tips and information about what tools to use, visit [www.wagner-spraytech.com](http://www.wagner-spraytech.com), [www.wagner-tilt.com](http://www.wagner-tilt.com) or follow @WagnerSprayTech on Twitter.



## Holiday Card Contest

A Drawing Contest For Children 12 & Under

### It's Simple!

Draw A Holiday Scene On 8.5"x11" White Paper and Submit It To The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

- Top drawings selected will be printed on Christmas cards. The cards will be sold with proceeds going to our Newspapers In Education Program
- The winners will be featured with their picture and first name in the Press & Dakotan and will receive a full package of the Christmas cards.
- Child's first name and age will be printed on the back of the Christmas Card.

Mail or bring to:

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan  
Holiday Card Contest

319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078

Any questions contact Noelle at 665-7811 ext. 112

Please write child's first name, age, phone number and school on back of drawing.

Entry deadline September 30, 2011.  
Press & Dakotan staff will judge drawings.



YANKTON DAILY  
**PRESS & DAKOTAN**  
319 Walnut, Yankton, SD • [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net)  
605-665-7811 • 1-800-743-2968

# Prep Your Home For Months Indoors

Family Features

According to a recent survey by the Cleaning Institute Organization, 96 percent of people think it's important to have a clean home. But with busy schedules, we sometimes fall short.

Here are some tips to prepare your home for the indoor months ahead:

Check the perimeter. Check window frames and entryways, since you may need to re-caulk and add additional weather strips. Clear gutters and chimneys of debris.

Store outdoor furniture. Before you store lawn or patio furniture, scrub each piece with Arm & Hammer Baking Soda — this natural cleaning method means that you won't need to worry about harsh chemicals washing onto your lawn.

Wash and weatherize windows. Clean window panes with a solution of vinegar and water, which re-

moves the dirt and grime left behind from winds and rainstorms. Then, place storm windows securely on each frame.

Remember to deodorize. Even if it's too cold to open the windows, you'll want your home to smell fresh and clean. Baking Soda is a great option for neutralizing unpleasant odors — from the refrigerator and freezer to the carpets and furniture.

Shine your floors. With allergies on the rise, it's important to pay special attention to floors, baseboards and other hard-to-reach spots — use a product that will clean deep-down to get rid of pollen and dirt.

Unpack cold weather wear. Remember to launder clothing before returning it to your closets, and take this opportunity to wash curtains and other fabric coverings.

For more helpful tips on using Baking Soda around the home, visit [www.armandhammer.com](http://www.armandhammer.com).

# NO

## INTEREST

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# 24 MONTHS!

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