

# Fall Pest Prevention Checklist

10 steps for Durham and Triangle homes. Start outside, then work under and inside the house.

## OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

- ☐ **1. Seal gaps where pipes, wires, dryer vents and AC lines enter.**  
Pack copper mesh or 00 steel wool into the gap, then caulk over it. Mice fit through about 1/4 inch.
- ☐ **2. Fix door sweeps, weatherstripping and the garage door seal.**  
If you can see daylight under a closed door, pests can get in.
- ☐ **3. Repair window and door screens. Cover vents and the chimney.**  
Foundation vents, attic vents and the chimney need intact screens or a cap.
- ☐ **4. Clean the gutters and point downspouts away from the foundation.**  
Add extenders or splash blocks so water runs away from the house.
- ☐ **5. Pull mulch, pine straw and leaves back from the foundation.**  
Keep mulch and soil several inches below wood siding or trim.
- ☐ **6. Trim branches and shrubs so nothing touches the roof or siding.**  
Leave open space between plants and the walls.
- ☐ **7. Stack firewood at least 20 feet from the house, off the ground.**  
Bring in only what you will burn that day.

## UNDER AND INSIDE THE HOUSE

- ☐ **8. Check the crawl space.**  
Look for standing water, damp insulation, a torn vapor barrier and broken vent screens.
- ☐ **9. Store food, pet food and birdseed in hard containers.**  
Use plastic bins off the floor in the garage and attic. Check holiday boxes before bringing them in.
- ☐ **10. Book a fall inspection for the roofline, attic and crawl space.**  
Castle inspections are free, with a written estimate before any work.

Notes: what I found and where

**Want a second set of eyes? Book a free inspection.**

Call (919) 606-8686, Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm ET, or visit [castleexterminators.co/#contact](https://castleexterminators.co/#contact)

Full guide with sources (NC State Extension, NPIC, NPMA): [castleexterminators.co/blog/fall-pest-prevention-durham-nc](https://castleexterminators.co/blog/fall-pest-prevention-durham-nc)