

Before the first cold front

Aim for mid-September. Only 2 of our 30 falls had a 60-degree night before then.

BY MID-SEPTEMBER

- ☐ Plug small holes with steel wool. It's a temporary fix and may rust.
- ☐ Check where pipes and wires come in.
- ☐ Fix screens, and add door sweeps or weather stripping.
- ☐ Trim branches off the house and roof.
- ☐ Move firewood away from the walls.
- ☐ Pull mulch, wood piles and pavers back from the house.

WHEN FRONTS AND RAIN ARRIVE

- ☐ Spread fire ant bait. Fall is a great time, Texas A&M says. Follow the label.
- ☐ Turn off outdoor lights you don't need. They're probably why crickets pile up.

AFTER A FRONT

- ☐ Vacuum psyllids and sweep up millipedes. Spraying usually isn't worth it.
- ☐ Look for mouse droppings and gnaw marks. In most cases, snap traps are a good first step.

Based on Texas A&M AgriLife, the CDC, UC IPM and the University of Kentucky. Cool-night dates: our count of NOAA records at Camp Mabry, 1996 to 2025.
