CLUTTER & CALM

The Ultimate Fall Declutter Checklist

15 things to toss before the holidays.
One focused October weekend — walk into the holidays with the calmest home on the block.

01 — HALLOWEEN & FALL DECOR

- [ ] 1 **Broken or faded Halloween decorations** — 10 MIN
  Tangled lights, cracked pumpkins, dried-out webs — if you had to apologize for it last year, it doesn't earn storage space.
- [ ] 2 **Costumes nobody wears anymore** — 10 MIN
  Keep one dress-up box for the kids; donate or pass along the rest while October demand is high.
- [ ] 3 **Summer items that survived too long** — 15 MIN
  Frayed beach towels, melted candles, broken pool toys — don't store for next year what didn't survive this one.
- [ ] 4 **Expired fall-scented candles & potpourri** — 5 MIN
  Keep this year's favorites; toss last year's half-burned, dust-covered, scent-gone remnants.

02 — THE WARDROBE SWAP

- [ ] 5 **Summer clothes you didn't wear** — 20 MIN
  Untouched all summer? It won't get worn next summer either. Donate while charities need stock.
- [ ] 6 **Worn-out fall basics** — 15 MIN
  Pilled cardigans, stretched leggings, worn boots, the coat with the broken zipper — purge before you buy new.
- [ ] 7 **The scarf / hat / glove graveyard** — 10 MIN
  Single gloves, never-worn scarves. Keep one warm set per person plus one spare; release the rest.
- [ ] 8 **Kids' outgrown fall clothes** — 15 MIN
  Last fall's jackets and boots probably don't fit. Donate the good stuff — someone needs coats before winter.

03 — KITCHEN & PANTRY RESET

- [ ] 9 **Expired baking supplies** — 10 MIN
  Check baking powder & soda, yeast, and flour NOW — not on Thanksgiving morning. Restock only what you bake with.
- [ ] 10 **Chipped mugs & mismatched containers** — 10 MIN
  Chipped mugs harbor bacteria; containers without lids are clutter. Keep a matching set that nests together.
- [ ] 11 **The holiday servingware audit** — 15 MIN
  Cracked platters, stained tablecloths — decide what to replace now. Thrift stores are full of holiday servingware in October.

04 — WHOLE-HOUSE SWEEP

- [ ] 12 **Expired medicines — cold-season edition** — 10 MIN
  Toss expired cold medicine and dead thermometers; restock the essentials before the midnight sick-kid scramble.
- [ ] 13 **Old bedding & blankets** — 10 MIN
  Flat pillows and frayed sheets go. Check the guest room too — future holiday-hosting you says thanks.
- [ ] 14 **The entryway pile-up** — 15 MIN
  Clear it completely, then set the system: one hook per person, one boot tray, one basket for gloves & hats.
- [ ] 15 **Digital clutter — the forgotten 15 minutes** — 15 MIN
  Delete blurry photos, clear downloads, unsubscribe from 10 marketing emails, remove unused apps.

What to do with it all — this week, not "someday"

- Donate this week. Charities need coats, costumes & household goods in October, not December. Many offer pickup — schedule it today.
- Sell fast or skip. List higher-value items within 48 hours or donate them. No "sell pile" purgatory.
- Trash the broken, guilt-free. Not everything is donatable, and that's fine.