

October 31, 2026 | Knoxville, Farragut & Lenoir City

Check door weatherstripping

Main task: about 30 active minutes. DIY.

October before cold weather. Annual; repair as needed.

- ☐ **Look for gaps and brittle seals**
Inspect accessible exterior-door weatherstripping. Note visible light gaps or damaged seals.
- ☐ **Replace a small damaged seal**
Use a compatible replacement and its fitting instructions. Arrange help if the repair affects how the door operates.
- ☐ **Check that the door still closes**
Confirm the door closes and latches normally after the repair. Keep required combustion-air openings unobstructed.

Safety: Keep doors latching and do not block combustion-air openings.

Additional time: None

Timing basis: Related seal maintenance supported; annual fall timing is editorial. Equipment instructions and actual conditions take priority.

Guidance: [Source 1](#)

[Open the online checklist and how-to links](#)

Follow-up notes

Other maintenance this week

Up to 95 additional active minutes if every item applies. Spread these out. Skip equipment you do not have and monthly checks already completed.

- ☐ **Walk through for leaks and humidity** (Weekly; 10 min)
Look under sinks and at ceilings. Read a hygrometer. Log new dampness. Aim for 30-50% RH, below 60%.
Safety: Fix leaks promptly. Dry wet materials within 24-48 hours. Refer extensive, hidden or contaminated damage to a professional. [Guide](#)
- ☐ **Read refrigerator and freezer thermometers** (Weekly planning check; 2 min)
Read appliance thermometers. Refrigerator should be 40 F or below; freezer 0 F or below.
Safety: Investigate unsafe temperatures promptly. An appliance setting is not a thermometer reading. [Guide](#)
- ☐ **Remove mosquito breeding water** (Weekly during mosquito season; 5 min)
Empty and scrub or cover small water-holding containers, including birdbaths and plant saucers.
Safety: Do not enter unsafe water or disturb electrical equipment. Pesticides must follow their labels. [Guide](#)
- ☐ **Look for attic leaks at the access** (Twice yearly planning check; 15 min)
Look from the hatch for staining or displaced insulation.
Safety: Do not step between joists or disturb wiring, suspect insulation or wildlife. [Guide](#)
- ☐ **Test GFCI protection** (Monthly; 5 min)
Use TEST and RESET as the device manual directs. Confirm protected power interrupts.
Safety: Plan around equipment that loses power. Stop using failed protection and call an electrician. Keep hands dry. [Guide](#)
- ☐ **Test garage door reversal and sensors** (Monthly; 8 min)
Follow your opener manual for contact-reversal and photo-eye tests. Keep everyone outside the door path.
Safety: Never stand under the door. Do not adjust springs, cables or force settings. Stop use if either test fails. [Guide](#)
- ☐ **Maintain vacuum cleaner** (Monthly inspection; filter care per model; 10 min)
Clear hair and visible obstructions. Clean or replace filters according to the vacuum manual.
Safety: Unplug or remove the battery before access. Wash only washable parts and dry fully before refitting. [Guide](#)
- ☐ **Clean range hood grease filter** (Monthly; lighter use may be quarterly; 15 min)
Cool the hood. Remove and wash reusable grease filters as directed. Refit dry.
Safety: Disconnect power for cleaning. Charcoal filters generally require replacement, not washing. [Guide](#)
- ☐ **Clean and inspect refrigerator door seals** (Monthly or per model; 5 min)
Wipe door gaskets using the approved method. Look for damage or poor closure.
Safety: Use mild, compatible cleaners. Have a damaged or persistently leaking seal assessed. [Guide](#)
- ☐ **Inspect dishwasher filter** (Monthly inspection; clean per model/use; 10 min)
Remove debris from a serviceable filter. Rinse gently and lock it back in place.
Safety: Switch off first. Do not force a maintenance-free filter out. Watch for sharp debris. [Guide](#)
- ☐ **Clean washing machine** (Monthly or every 30 cycles, per manual; 10 min)
Run the model's cleaning cycle. Clean its dispenser, gasket and serviceable filters as directed.
Safety: Never mix cleaning products. Do not force access to a non-serviceable filter. [Guide](#)

Optional housekeeping & reminders

About 143 active minutes for cleaning: 143 for the regular routine plus this week's detail. Spread it out. Laundry and machine cycles add time.

Follow care labels, ventilate and never mix cleaning products. Use safe access and hire help for height or heavy items.

Regular cleaning routine

- ☐ **Wipe down the kitchen**
Counters, cooled stovetop, sink and appliance fronts.
- ☐ **Vacuum and mop floors**
Include stairs. Use the method approved for your flooring.
- ☐ **Dust and refresh upholstery**
Top to bottom. Vacuum cushions and fluff pillows.
- ☐ **Clean bathrooms and reachable glass**
Toilets, sinks, tub or shower, mirrors and glass.
- ☐ **Review food storage and empty bins**
Check leftovers. Wipe sticky trash and recycling bins.
- ☐ **Wash bedding, towels and bathmats**
Replace sheets and pillowcases. Follow care labels.

Only if it applies: household and equipment

Additional time. Keep personal and financial records private.

- ☐ **Sort magazines and catalogs** (3 min)
Sort current reading and recycle or file unwanted items.
Safety: Protect personal information before recycling.
- ☐ **Review bank and card transactions** (10 min)
Review recent transactions and flag unfamiliar charges or missing records.
Safety: Use trusted account access. Keep financial details out of shared copies.
- ☐ **Review inboxes, bills and paperwork** (10 min)
Review due bills and correspondence; file completed paperwork.
Safety: Protect account numbers and avoid duplicate payments.
- ☐ **Organize files and photos** (15 min)
Organize one folder or photo batch and confirm important files are backed up.
Safety: Do not delete originals until backups are verified.

Between reminders: clean the dryer lint screen each load. Inspect after significant storms and address failed alarms, leaks or unsafe equipment promptly. Portable humidifiers in use need daily water care and cleaning every third day. Pools need more frequent care and barrier supervision during use.

Move outdoor work for heat, lightning, rain or ice. Prepare plumbing before a forecast freeze. Repairs, professional service, materials and machine cycles add time.