

## In the Know: Fall Foliage and Other Seasonal Hazards

October 2022

### Beware of Fallen Leaves

No matter where you look these days, the colors of fall are bountiful. However, the beauty of fall foliage can mask the hidden hazards of fallen leaves and the damage they can do near or around the home. Here are just a few:

**Clogged Gutters/Downspouts:** When leaves clutter a gutter or downspout, water can actually seep toward the house versus away from it. Roof leaks become more likely, which over time damage a home's interior, including furniture and appliances. The water spillover often hits the ground next to the foundation, leading to potential structural damage or basement flooding.

**Parking on Fallen Leaves:** Foliage is not always wet, and piles of leaves can become a fire hazard. Exhaust or a catalytic converter might ignite and quickly takeover the car.

**Storm Drain Overflow:** While homeowners have little control over the clearing of roadside storm drains, ponding and flooding may occur and create hazardous driving, including hydroplaning. The overabundance of water is not the only risk. Wet leaves can make for very slippery conditions.

**Mold Growth:** Damp conditions, including foliage, increase the likelihood of mold which can cause allergic reactions such as headaches, bronchitis, runny nose, asthma and more.

For questions or additional tips and resources, any ServiceMaster of Cherry Hill team member is available to address concerns.

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### Keep Halloween Fun

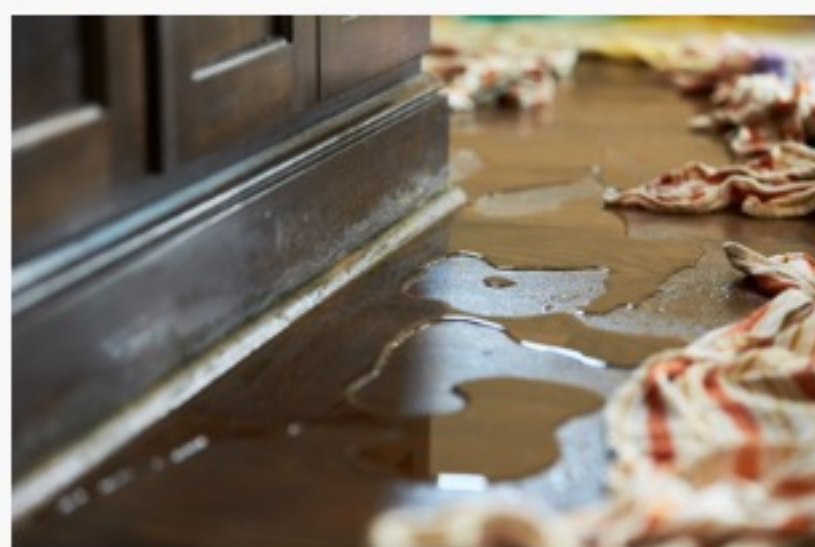
Ghosts and goblins, witches and skeletons – these should be the scariest encounters we face on Halloween. Unfortunately, all tricks and treats aside, staying safe need to remain top of mind. When it comes to fright night festivities, it can be easy to lose sight of some common fire-related risks and masked dangers. Two of the most prominent at this time of year include:

**Jack-o-Lanterns:** Smiling or spooky, traditional pumpkins shining bright from within by a candle are a fire hazard as they can easily tip and ignite surrounding materials. TIP: Use battery-operated candle or LED lighting.

**Candles:** While ideal for creating an eerie entrance or haunted room, the use of candles near any sort of paper bags or lining can pose a great fire risk. TIP: Battery, no-flame candles can create the same ambiance safely.

A good piece of advice is to remember that any decorations can become a hazard if near a heat source. Just think... straw and hay bales too close beside a wood-burning stove or outdoor fire pit... Protect your family, friends and home by keeping decorations far away from potential ignitors.

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### Disaster Restoration

When damage strikes your home or business, there is more at stake than just the property. It can cause unthinkable devastation and interruption, security issues, damaged documents, and other factors that no one imagines until something happens. The key to restoration is having a trusted contractor who understands the complexity of both the immediate and often residual damage.

#### ServiceMaster of Cherry Hill Disaster Restoration Services:

- Water Damage Restoration
- Fire Damage Restoration
- Mold Remediation
- Sewage Damage Clean Up
- Vandalism Clean Up
- Trauma/Biohazard Cleaning
- Construction Services
- and more...

### Reconstruction Services

Unlike many disaster restoration contractors, ServiceMaster of Cherry Hill won't leave until the job is done. Others may be good at damage control but leave an untenable mess behind. We are equipped not only to help restore your home or business after a disaster but also to provide comprehensive reconstruction services to have it looking brand new.



#### ServiceMaster of Cherry Hill Reconstruction Services:

- Bath and Kitchen Remodeling
- Carpet, Hardwood and Tile Floor Installation
- Painting
- Basement Finishing
- Lighting
- Door and Window Installation
- and more...

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