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## Here is Your September Home To-Do List

by [homewarranty.com](http://homewarranty.com)

September is typically a month of transitions. From its fickle weather to its back-to-school vibe, September beckons us to prepare for the upcoming new season full of joy...and tasks. Taking on September is easy with our September Home To-Do List. Grab a family member and block out a weekend. Tackle a few chores that will keep your home running like clockwork this fall.

### Remove Window Units

September is a great month to either remove your window AC units or protect them outdoors with an insulated cover. Removing the unit is optimal, as it allows the window to close entirely.

### Replace Weather-stripping

Check older windows, especially for cracked or peeling weather-stripping, and replace as needed. The idea is to keep the winter weather out - and your precious heating dollars indoors where they belong.

### Check Your Attic Insulation

Keep your energy bills from going through the roof, literally. If your attic faces extreme temps during the year, consider updating its insulation.

### Make Sure Your Heater Works

Test your heater to make sure it is in good working condition *before* you need it this winter. Dirty or clogged filters should be replaced as they will prevent proper airflow, which makes your heater work twice as hard, and raises your energy bills.

### Protect Winter Pipes

There are several foam or rubber pipe insulation options available. Foam pipe covers are safer to use than heating tape, and they are simple to install. Just slip them

right over your pipes to prevent possible freezing this winter.

### Check Safety Devices

Make sure smoke alarms are installed inside each sleeping area or bedroom in your home and on every level of your home. Test your safety devices once a month to make sure they are in working order.

### Clean Gutters

Once most of the leaves have fallen from surrounding trees, use a ladder to access your gutters. Using gloves, scoop out dead leaves and debris into a bucket. Use a garden hose to wash away smaller pieces toward the downspouts, making sure your downspouts deposit the water away from your home's foundation.

### Store Summer Gear

Once your family bids a fond summer-farewell to the lake, beach, or pool - it's time to clean and store boogie boards, water toys, shovels, and outdoor furniture.

### Aerate Your Lawn

Aerating helps your lawn "breathe" by loosening the soil and allowing it to properly absorb water and nutrients. During the cooler months, grass grows slower, and your lawn needs all the help it can get.

### Trim Trees

Late fall is the perfect time of year to trim back your trees and shrubbery. Take a walk around your lawn and examine the trees and shrubbery on your property. Keep tree branches trimmed to about three feet from your house to prevent moisture from constantly dripping onto your roof or siding during the rainy season. Prune shrubs away from the exterior of your house. This will also help prevent pest problems during warmer months.

## September Calendar

September 6 - Labor Day

September 11 - Patriot Day

September 12 - Grandparent's Day

September 22 - Fall begins

## Homeowner Tip:



### Brighten Up Your Fall with Flowers

Make bold, fall colors part of your curb appeal this month. Fill containers with golden autumnal favorites like Marigolds, Black-Eyed Susans, or Chrysanthemums. If traditional fall colors aren't your thing, that's okay, too. Choose the unexpected, beautiful blues and purples of Asters, Sweet Alyssum, and Flowering Kale instead. Any of these spectacular blooms will complement your gourds and decorative pumpkins all season long.

## Set Up a Homework Hub to Help Your Student Make the Grade

This month, help your student get back into the swing of studying by providing a little space they can call their own, and focus. Whether it's their bedroom, family room, dining room, or a closet, here are tips to set up a homework hub to help your student make the grade.

1. It goes without saying, clear the clutter. Whatever space you've decided upon, your student will need a place for a laptop, a lamp, books, and notes.

2. Hang a wall calendar to assist in planning. A wall calendar can visually show your student their projects and progress in a way that is just not possible on their iPhone. Your student can easily see the past, present, future assignments and their due dates.

3. Invest in a small, sturdy, bright desk lamp.

4. Install a sturdy hook for your student's backpack to keep homework, supplies, and assignments within arm's reach.

5. Shop for supplies with your student, and let them get the basics for their workspace.

6. Secure space to organize your student's work and supplies. This could mean a shelf, bins, shoe boxes, or small storage containers. The idea is to label them, so your student doesn't waste a ton of time looking for a protractor or pencil lead.

7. Use an In/Outbox. Grownups have been using them for eons, but the concept is simple and will help your student visualize tasks tackled and those soon due.



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## Celebrate National Queso Day with a Classic White Cheese Dip

September 20 is National Queso Day, so grab your friends and don't forget the tortilla chips. This dip is similar to white cheese sauces served in many Mexican restaurants. The amount of heat can be adjusted by adding your favorite chili pepper or crushed cayenne pepper to taste.

### Ingredients

- 1 pound white American cheese, cubed
- ½ cup milk, or as needed
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine
- 2 (4 ounce) cans chopped green chilies
- 2 teaspoons cumin
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder

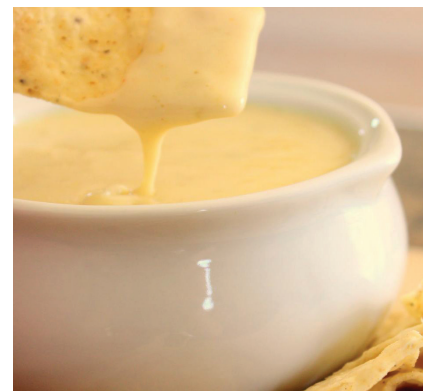
2 teaspoons onion powder

Cayenne pepper to taste

### Directions

Place cheese, milk, and butter in a medium saucepan over low heat. Cook until cheese has melted, stirring frequently. Stir in green chilies, cumin, garlic powder, onion powder, and cayenne pepper to taste. Add more milk if dip is too thick. Heat through and serve immediately.

This cheese dip is kid-friendly, quick, and delicious! It can be used as a dip for tortilla chips or a sauce for many Mexican dishes.



*Photo & recipe courtesy of: [allrecipes.com](http://allrecipes.com)*