Winter Home Maintenance Checklist

A winter home maintenance checklist for cold-weather upkeep and protecting your home.

Prevent Frozen Pipes

- [ ] Insulate exposed pipes in the garage, crawl space and exterior walls
- [ ] Let faucets drip slowly during hard freezes
  Moving water is far less likely to freeze
- [ ] Keep the thermostat at 55°F or higher, even when away
- [ ] Open cabinet doors to let warm air reach pipes under sinks
- [ ] Know where the main water shut-off is in case a pipe bursts
- [ ] Keep the garage door closed to protect any plumbing inside

Heating System

- [ ] Replace furnace filters monthly during heavy heating use
- [ ] Keep supply and return vents clear of furniture and rugs
- [ ] Listen for unusual furnace noises and call a pro if heat fails
- [ ] Use space heaters safely — on hard floors, away from fabric, never unattended
- [ ] Run a humidifier to offset dry winter air and protect woodwork
- [ ] Have a backup heat source and fuel ready for power outages

Roof, Gutters & Ice Dams

- [ ] Watch for icicles and ice buildup at the roof edge
- [ ] Rake light roof snow from the ground with a roof rake
- [ ] Check the attic for adequate insulation and ventilation
  Warm attics melt snow and cause ice dams
- [ ] Keep gutters and downspouts clear so meltwater can drain
- [ ] Hire a professional for heavy roof snow or steep roofs

Indoor Safety

- [ ] Test smoke and carbon-monoxide alarms on every level
- [ ] Check CO alarms near the furnace, fireplace and attached garage
  CO is odorless; alarms are the only reliable warning
- [ ] Keep the fireplace flue clear and never burn trash or treated wood
- [ ] Keep the kitchen fire extinguisher accessible and charged
- [ ] Avoid running generators or grills indoors or in the garage

Windows, Doors & Drafts

- [ ] Add or replace weatherstripping on drafty doors and windows
- [ ] Use draft stoppers under exterior doors
- [ ] Apply window insulation film to single-pane windows
- [ ] Lock windows fully to seal the gap and improve security

- [ ] Keep curtains open on sunny days and closed at night for warmth

Outdoor & Storm Prep

- [ ] Keep walkways, steps and the driveway clear of snow and ice
- [ ] Stock ice melt and a working snow shovel near the door
- [ ] Confirm outdoor faucets are drained and shut off
- [ ] Stock an emergency kit: flashlight, batteries, water and blankets
- [ ] Trim or note branches weighed down by ice that could fall