

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