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PREPARE YOUR HOME  
FOR  
*Winter*





## Prepare Your Home From Winter.

Preparing your house for winter is essential to ensure comfort, safety, and energy efficiency during the colder months. Here are some tips to help you get your home ready for winter:

- 1. Inspect Your Heating System:** Schedule a professional inspection of your heating system (furnace, heat pump, or boiler). Clean or replace filters, and ensure that the system is functioning efficiently. Consider installing a programmable thermostat to save on heating costs.
- 2. Seal Leaks:** Inspect your windows and doors for drafts. Seal any gaps or cracks with weatherstripping or caulk to prevent heat loss. Also, check for gaps around electrical outlets, switch plates, and pipes entering your home and seal them.
- 3. Insulate Your Home:** Proper insulation in your attic, walls, and basement can significantly reduce heat loss. Insulate your water pipes to prevent freezing and consider adding insulation to your attic if it's lacking.
- 4. Clean Gutters and Downspouts:** Remove leaves, debris, and any blockages from gutters and downspouts. This prevents ice dams and allows melting snow and ice to flow away from your house, preventing water damage.
- 5. Trim Trees and Shrubs:** Trim any branches that hang over your roof or near power lines. Heavy snow or ice accumulation can cause them to break and damage your home.
- 6. Check Your Roof:** Inspect your roof for damaged or missing shingles. Replace any that are compromised to prevent leaks. Also, check for signs of wear around chimneys and vents.



7. Prepare Your Fireplace: If you have a fireplace, have the chimney inspected and cleaned. Stock up on dry firewood, and make sure you have all necessary fireplace tools and accessories.

8. Protect Outdoor Faucets: Drain and disconnect garden hoses. Turn off the outdoor water supply and drain the pipes to prevent freezing. Consider installing freeze-proof outdoor faucets.

9. Check Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors: Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace the batteries if needed. It's crucial to have working detectors, especially during the heating season when the risk of fire and carbon monoxide leaks increases.

10. Winterize Your Lawn Equipment: Drain the fuel from lawnmowers, leaf blowers, and other outdoor equipment. Store them properly and consider having your snow blower serviced before the first snowfall.

11. Prepare an Emergency Kit: Assemble an emergency kit with essentials like flashlights, batteries, blankets, non-perishable food, water, and essential medications. Be prepared for power outages or other winter-related emergencies.

12. Create a Winter Safety Plan: Discuss safety measures with your family, such as what to do in case of a power outage or severe weather. Establish a communication plan in case family members are separated during a storm.

By taking these steps, you can ensure that your home is well-prepared for winter, keeping you and your family warm, safe, and comfortable throughout the season.