

Home Winterization Checklist

Exterior Preparation

- Inspect and clean gutters and downspouts.
- Check the roof for missing or damaged shingles.
- Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors with weather-stripping and caulk.
- Insulate water pipes that are exposed to freezing temperatures.
- Drain and store outdoor hoses; shut off exterior water valves.
- Check and repair any damage to siding and trim.

Heating System

- Schedule a professional inspection of your heating system.
- Replace the furnace filter.
- Test your thermostat to ensure it's working properly.
- Make sure all heating vents are open and unblocked.

Fireplace and Chimney

- Have the chimney cleaned and inspected by a professional.
- Check the chimney for drafts and install a chimney balloon if needed.
- Stock up on firewood and store it in a dry place.

Safety Equipment

- Test smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors; replace batteries if necessary.
- Prepare or restock a home emergency kit with supplies like flashlights, batteries, and blankets.
- Ensure that fire extinguishers are easily accessible and not expired.

Interior Maintenance

- Reverse ceiling fans to create an upward draft that redistributes warm air.
- Check and replace weather-stripping on doors and windows.
- Insulate any exposed plumbing, especially in basements and attics.
- Check the attic for adequate insulation.

Lawn and Garden

- Fertilize and reseed the lawn.
- Trim trees and shrubs away from the house and power lines.
- Protect young trees or shrubs from extreme cold with wraps or shields.
- Store or cover outdoor furniture and grills.

Miscellaneous

- Clean and store summer tools; prepare winter tools like snow blowers.
- Make sure all outdoor lighting is working, considering shorter days and longer nights.
- Stock up on ice melt or sand for walkways and driveways.