

# Homeowners Winter Checklist

Prepare your home for winter by inspecting the following:

## Exterior Maintenance

- Roof and gutters:
  - Check for missing or damaged shingles and repair if needed.
  - Clean gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams.
  - Ensure water is directed away from the foundation of the house.
- Exterior walls and windows:
  - Inspect for any cracks or gaps in caulking and apply new caulk where necessary.
  - Ensure window seals are intact to prevent drafts.
- Chimney and fireplace:
  - Have the chimney cleaned and inspected by a professional.
  - Ensure the fireplace damper is working properly.
- Faucets and irrigation system:
  - Shut off exterior faucets and drain garden hoses.
  - Blow out irrigation systems to prevent freezing.
- Outdoor lighting:
  - Check and replace any outdoor light bulbs.
  - Consider adding pathway lighting to increase safety during dark winter evenings.

## Interior Maintenance

- Heating system:
  - Replace furnace filters and schedule a professional inspection.
  - Consider having a professional clean and check your heating ducts.
- Insulation: Check attic, basement, and wall insulation to ensure efficiency, and add where necessary.
- Seal drafts:
  - Install or replace weather stripping on doors and windows.
  - Use draft stopper to prevent cold air from entering under doors.
- Safety equipment: Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and replace batteries if needed.
- Plumbing:
  - Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
  - Know how to shut off the water supply in case of emergencies.

## General Preparedness

- Winter supplies check:
  - Stock up on winter supplies such as rock salt, shovels, and snow blowers.
  - Ensure you have an emergency kit including flashlights, batteries, and blankets.
- Trees and landscaping:
  - Trim tree branches that may become heavy with snow and risk causing damage.
  - Clear leaves from the yard to prevent mold and damage to grass.
- Emergency exit plan:
  - Ensure all family members know the emergency exit plan and meeting location.
  - Check that all windows and doors open easily in case of emergency evacuation.
- Prepare vehicles:
  - Check antifreeze levels, battery, tires, and windshield wipers.
  - Keep a winter emergency kit in each vehicle, including jumper cables for potential dead batteries.

## Contact us:



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