



CHORE: WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

TOP TIPS TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR HOME SAFE THIS WINTER

Not so long ago, we were commenting on the heat, then that slight crisp chill in the air in the morning. Now, winter is here. Are you ready? There are a few things homeowners and even renters can do to safeguard our homes and ourselves

Plumbing

- ☁ Protect against frozen pipes by insulating those that could be susceptible to freezing like those on outside walls or unheated rooms
- ☁ In severe cold, keep a small stream of water running in a few faucets to guard against freezing and bursting.
- ☁ Install an emergency pressure release valve in your plumbing system to protect against increased pressure caused by frozen pipes which can cause them to burst
- ☁ Know how to shut the water off at the main valve

Heating

- ☁ Have the furnace checked, both for efficiency and to prevent carbon monoxide leaks
- ☁ If you use a wood fireplace or stove, have the chimney checked to clear buildup and prevent chimney fires
- ☁ Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- ☁ Check insulation in attics to ensure it is adequate and prevent excessive heat loss
- ☁ Close vents in the foundation that lead to the outside
- ☁ Caulk around holes and openings to prevent cold air from seeping in
- ☁ Install weather stripping and seals around windows, doors and mail slots.

Prevent Slips, Falls and Injuries

- ☁ Keep driveways and sidewalks clear of ice and snow
- ☁ Place a small container of snow melt near outside doors and where you get out of your car, so it is handy when you need it
- ☁ Repair any issues with steps and handrails.
- ☁ Trim trees and remove dead branches to prevent ice build-up and the danger of falling limbs weighed down by snow or ice
- ☁ Clean out gutters, and install gutter guards to prevent ice dams and poor drainage

If you are like the birds and head south for the winter, you need to take additional steps to ensure your unoccupied home stays safe while you are away. It is also a good idea to have someone come by on occasion to check your home for damage and ensure minimal heat and water flow are working.