

WINTER HOME PREP CHECKLIST:

ESSENTIAL INDOOR & OUTDOOR HOME TIPS

As winter approaches, taking the time to prepare your home for colder weather can help ensure you stay warm, prevent potential damage, and keep your energy bills down. **Here's a checklist of expert tips for inside and outside your home to help you get winter ready.**

INSIDE THE HOME

- Furnace Tune-Up:** Schedule a professional furnace inspection before winter sets in to address any potential issues. This will help avoid unexpected repairs and keep your home heated efficiently.
- Install and Test Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Place detectors on every floor, especially near sleeping areas. Regular testing helps protect against this dangerous, odorless gas during winter heating.
- Replace Furnace Filters:** Switch out your furnace filter each month to improve airflow and help your heating system run efficiently.
- Reverse Ceiling Fan Direction:** In winter, rotate the fan blades clockwise. This recirculates warm air trapped near the ceiling, reducing strain on your heating system.
- Inspect Windows and Doors for Drafts:** Seal any leaks with weather stripping or caulk to prevent cold air from entering. This helps maintain warmth and reduces heating costs.
- Add Insulation:** Consider adding insulation in the attic or basement to improve heat retention. Insulated air ducts are especially important in colder areas of the home.
- Heavy Curtains:** Switch to heavy fabric curtains or blinds to keep heat inside. Close them at night for added insulation.
- Window Film Installation:** Window film can reduce winter glare and keep warmth in, improving overall comfort and efficiency.
- Drain Water Heater:** Drain your water heater twice a year to remove sediment for optimal performance. This ensures consistent water pressure and heating.
- Interior Painting:** Winter is ideal for indoor painting projects. Keep the temperature consistent and ensure good ventilation while painting.

OUTSIDE THE HOME

- ❑ **Winterize AC Units:** If you have a window AC unit, remove and store it in a dry place. For central air systems, cover the outdoor unit to prevent damage.
- ❑ **Insulate Exposed Plumbing Pipes:** Wrap exposed pipes with insulation to prevent freezing. Know your water main shutoff location for emergencies.
- ❑ **Install Storm Doors and Swap Out Screens:** Replace screen doors with storm doors to add a layer of insulation against extreme winter weather.
- ❑ **Secure Dryer Vents and Air Intakes:** Ensure they are sealed tightly to prevent animals from entering for warmth.
- ❑ **Gutter Maintenance:** Clear gutters and downspouts of debris to prevent ice dams and water damage. Confirm water flows away from the foundation.
- ❑ **Garden Hose Storage:** Drain all garden hoses and store them in a sheltered area. To prevent pipe freezing, shut off exterior water spigots.
- ❑ **Roof and Tree Maintenance:** Remove leaves and debris from flat roofs and address any branches that could break under snow load.
- ❑ **Holiday Lights Prep:** To avoid issues with holiday lights, use outlet covers, set timers, and inspect your setup. Replace any faulty outlets to keep lights festive and safe.
- ❑ **Garage Door Maintenance:** Cold weather can affect garage doors. Check for any loose bolts or issues and call a professional if needed.
- ❑ **Light and Landscape Pathways:** Use lighting to brighten walkways and entry points. It adds a welcoming touch and improves safety for guests.

By tackling these steps, you're setting up your home for a cozy, energy-efficient winter season. Prioritize what matters most and enjoy a warm, worry-free winter!

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