

Home Sweet Holidays: Prepare Your Home for the Festive Season and Winter Months

The holidays have arrived! Now is the time to get your house “guest-ready” for this special season. Neighborly® is a local network of home service brands that will connect you to specific, vetted local experts. Our service professionals work with rigorous quality standards to repair, maintain, and enhance your home. Whether your holiday gatherings are small or large, they will still require some effort. Let our friendly home service professionals at Neighborly give you your free time back so you can enjoy the holidays to the fullest.

Do you need assistance with any of the home maintenance items on your list? Visit [neighborly.com](https://www.neighborly.com) or download the Neighborly App to explore our services and connect with a local Neighborly pro.

REPAIR

Drain Your Water Heater

House guests can put a strain on your plumbing system. Draining your water heater twice a year is ideal to help ensure your water heater continues operating efficiently. Your holiday guests will thank you for optimal water pressure and consistently hot water during their stay.

Prep Your Holiday Lights in Advance

Rainy, snowy, or extremely cold areas can cause outdoor outlets to trip your holiday lights. Install an outlet cover, set timers for lights, and avoid sprinkler interference. If you keep running into trouble, perform an inspection to discover the problem and replace the outlet if necessary.

Service Your Garage Doors

As outside temperatures drop below zero, make sure to properly maintain your doors during winter to minimize contraction risks. To avoid injury, seek a local professional if you have a loose bolt to your garage door hardware.

Change the Air Filter in Your HVAC System

Winter is a good time to change the air filter in your HVAC system to ensure your system runs more efficiently during the colder months. Additionally, having your furnace inspected and cleaned will make sure your heating system is prepared for the colder weather.

Prepare Your Fridge and Freezer

Before filling up your fridge and freezer with holiday feasts, clean and discard any old or unnecessary items to maximize space and improve energy efficiency. Group similar items together using bins or containers labeled with the contents and date of freezing to keep things tidy.

MAINTAIN

Clean Your Entryway for Guests & Holiday Decor

Prioritizing cleaning areas can cut down on the pre-celebration stress. Your entryway is the first area your guests will see, so make sure it's tidy, dusted, and organized. Adding festive decor is also a nice way to greet guests and get them into the holiday spirit.

Light and Landscape Your Pathways

Nothing says home for the holidays like lighting your pathways to welcome family and friends. Lighting and landscaping services can help your home look warm, welcoming and festive during the holiday season – and all year-round.

Take Care of Your Tree

While the holidays bring cheer, they can also bring unexpected dangers. Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree, and never use lighted candles on or near evergreens. Place trees, both artificial and live, away from fireplaces and radiators.

Install Window Film

With a bright white blanket of snow on the ground, the sun's glare can be unbearable in the wintertime. Installing window film can deflect the sun's rays while also working to insulate your windows so heat stays indoors.

Clean Your Dryer Vents

Sweater weather means more lint and debris that may clog the dryer vent, which can cause fire, carbon monoxide accumulation, extra wear to clothing, excessive energy use, and mold growth. A professional dryer vent cleaning can help prevent these issues.

Remove Standing Water

In warmer climates, mosquitos can be a year-long problem. Remove all standing water from your yard as well as objects like toys, flowerpots, or leaves that can collect or trap rainwater. This will ensure that you don't have an early hatching of mosquitos in the spring.

ENHANCE

Paint the Interior of Your Home

Winter is the perfect time for interior painting. Open windows and use fans to ensure good airflow to help paint fumes dissipate more quickly. Keep your indoor space within the recommended temperature range specified on the paint to help paint adhere. Avoid painting in extremely cold conditions.

Swap Screen Doors for Storm Doors

As temperatures drop, replace screen doors with storm doors to insulate from extreme winter weather. Do the same with screen windows. Draft snakes, which are fabric tubes placed under a door, can also help to prevent cold air from getting in.

Power Wash the Exterior of Your Home

The exterior can make or break a first impression for guests. Power washing your driveway and sidewalks can start your holiday season off right and help showcase your lights and decorations.

Organize Your Holiday Decor

A holiday closet can keep decorating stress-free. Custom pull-out drawers and glide-out shelves are perfect for keeping decorations and supplies organized, in excellent condition, and easy to locate and access when you need them.

Download our app at <https://www.neighborly.com/about/the-neighborly-app> to schedule your next home service.

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