

Winterizing Checklist

SAFETY CHECK

- ___ Make sure fire extinguishers are fully charged.
- ___ Replace smoke/fire alarm batteries, test alarms.
- ___ Make and review family fire prevention escape plans.
- ___ Check locks.
- ___ Put lights on timers.
- ___ Locate shutoff valves for water, electricity, and gas.
- ___ Know how to shut them off in case of emergency.

EXTERIOR WALLS

- ___ Check for missing or loose siding (or other problems).
- ___ Caulk joints and minor cracks with appropriate caulks.
- ___ Look for deteriorating finishes. Minor problems can be patched now to preserve the wood.
- ___ If you have storm windows, they should go up now.

EXTERIOR PLUMBING

- ___ Drain and shut off sprinkler systems and other water lines, to avoid frozen/broken pipes. Leave taps slightly open.
- ___ Insulate exterior spigots and other pipes that are subject to freezing, but can't be drained and shut off.

YARD CHORES

- ___ Rake leaves and garden debris.
- ___ Trim trees.
- ___ Plant spring flowering bulbs.
- ___ Divide perennials.

DRAINAGE

- ___ Clean storm and other drains, then make sure they drain properly.
- ___ Check the foundation for proper drainage. Spray with a hose or watch during a rainstorm to see that water runs away from the house/garage.
- ___ Make sure dirt or piles of wood don't touch wood siding. (That can bring termites and carpenter ants into the house.)
- ___ Clean out window wells.
- ___ Seal driveway and walkway cracks.

GUTTERS

- ___ Clean out accumulated leaves and debris from gutters and drainpipes. Then run water to make sure they drain properly and don't leak.

PORCH, PATIO, DECK

- ___ Put away or cover outdoor furniture and barbecues.
- ___ Check supports for rot, missing connections, or other problems.
- ___ Add slip-proof strips to steps or other slippery spots.
- ___ Reset exterior light timers; make sure all lights work.

ROOF

- ___ Inspect the roof for lifting, damaged or missing pieces. (Tip: use binoculars. It's easier and safer than a ladder.)
- ___ Check soffits for signs of moisture buildup.
- ___ Check flashing for lifting or poor seals.

CHIMNEY

- ___ Check chimney for loose masonry.
- ___ Check chimney and chimney cap for signs of smoke or water leaks.

ATTIC

- ___ Check vent openings for nests or other blockages.
- ___ Make sure vents and/or attic fans work properly.
- ___ Look for signs of roof or flashing leaks on rafters and insulation.

FIREPLACE AND WOODSTOVES

- ___ If you plan to use your woodstove or fireplace this year, check your chimney for soot buildup. It should be cleaned before it reaches 1/4" thickness.
- ___ Make sure fireplace and woodstove doors seal tightly (or install doors or covers to seal them).
- ___ Close dampers - but don't forget to open them before you light fires!

HEATING SYSTEM

- ___ Clean permanent furnace filter; replace disposable filters. Do this monthly throughout the heating season.
- ___ Have your system serviced once a year (or as recommended by your manufacturer or utility company). Or do it yourself.
- ___ Clean and vacuum baseboards, heating ducts, and vents.
- ___ Remove or winterize air conditioners, following manufacturer's directions.
- ___ Check hot water heater for leaks.

THESE TIPS ARE BROUGHT TO YOU COURTESY OF



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