



Resident's Guide to Snow & Ice Control

Preparing Your Home for Winter



1 WINDOWS & DOORS

Take a look at all of your windows and doors. Look for cracks, chipping paint, and weatherstripping wear. It's also a good idea to test for drafts. Replace weather stripping & re-caulk gaps as needed. Apply a fresh coat of paint or sealant if you see weathering on the framing surface. Consider replacing old windows or installing storm windows to save on heating costs.



2 WALKWAYS & LIGHTING

Walk around the walkways and look for cracks and uneven terrain. Tree roots can push up walkways and pavement, creating a tripping hazard. Repair issues to prevent icy falls. Make sure all exterior lighting is functioning properly and replace bulbs if needed. LED bulbs are the best choice for longevity & energy savings.



3 PIPES & FAUCETS

Drain and turn off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems. If you have an older type of outdoor faucet that isn't freezeproof, then cover it with a styrofoam faucet cover. Insulate exposed pipes in your home to prevent condensation & freezing and improve efficiency.



4 INSULATION

Insulate, insulate, insulate! Properly insulating your house is the best thing you can do to keep your home energy efficient, warm, and well maintained. Utilize weatherstripping, plastic sheeting, caulk, foam board, and insulating covers to improve insulation throughout your home. Replace old or worn weatherstripping, seal cracks, and fill in drafty gaps.

5 HEATING & VENTILATION

Schedule a professional to maintain your furnace and heating system especially if it's acting up or noisy. Replace air filters and clean ducts. Remove window air conditioners and cover air conditioning units. Examine attic & basement vents and fix any leaks. Make sure all exterior vents are covered to prevent critters from entering.



6 FIRE SAFETY

Test smoke detectors & CO detectors. Replace old fire extinguishers. If you have a fireplace, have it cleaned of soot & creosote residue, and make sure the flue is clear. Prevent brush fires by removing dried yard debris away from the home into a compost pile or yard waste bags.



7 SIDING

Do a walk around and look for any loose or exposed areas in the siding. Seal gaps and replace damaged siding panels. Make sure the caulk and seals around trim, seams, and flashings are in good condition. Prune away any close tree branches and plants that may damage the siding when the wind blows.

8 GUTTERS & ROOF

Clean any debris off the roof and gutters, and make sure downspouts are clear. Look for loose screws and sagging and ensure that gutters are properly secured to hold the weight of snow and ice. Consider installing gutter guards if you have heavy leaf fall on your home.





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Preparing Your Vehicle for Winter



Step 1 **Check your tires**

Wet or icy roads are dangerous! Make sure you have **adequate tread** on your tires and check their **pressure**.

If you live in an area that sees a high amount of snowfall, consider **snow tires**, which are made of cold-resistant rubber and have deeper treads.

Step 2 **Change your oil**

Cold temperatures cause **oil to thicken**, which can prevent it from lubricating your engine, causing damage.

Fill your engine with an oil of **lower viscosity**. The number before the W represents viscosity, so **5W-30** has a lower viscosity than 10W-40. Check your owner's manual for the right type.

Step 3 **Wax your car**

Moisture and road salt are a corrosive combination, and will **eat away at your paint**. Since paint protects your car's body, once it's gone the aluminum underneath can become damaged.

Giving your car a **wax job** is the best way to protect it from corrosive materials.

Step 4 **Wiper blades**

Regular wiper blades struggle with snow and ice. Switch to **winter wiper blades** to ensure visibility.

Wiper fluid can freeze and will be unable to spray. Switch to a **winter wiper fluid** that won't freeze.

Step 5 **Belts & hoses**

It never hurts to take your car in for a **tune-up**, particularly just before the hard winter months.

Make sure your engine's **belts and hoses** are in good condition. These become more brittle in the cold and are more likely to snap or break.

Step 6 **Add antifreeze**

Your car's coolant system isn't there just to keep your engine from overheating: it also prevents interior corrosion. If your **coolant freezes**, your engine could be damaged.

Replace your coolant with one that has a proper mix of **antifreeze and water (50/50)**.

Step 7 **Fill your tank**

During the winter, **moisture can build up in your gas tank** and corrode the metal inside. If this moisture freezes, you could experience heavy damage.

Prevent this by **always keeping your tank above half full**. The gasoline will absorb any moisture before it builds up.