

My Home Winter Ready Check List



Exterior

- Have roof inspection for missing or loose shingles
- Inspect the clean gutters and downspouts
- Caulk windows and weather-strip doors
- Switch screens to storm windows
- Turn off water supply to outside faucets
- Disconnect garden hoses outside faucets and drain the hose before you store it
- Drain exterior water faucets of water in the line
- Use an insulated cover for the outside faucet

Interior

- If you have a propane or oil furnace, make sure to have your fuel storage tank topped off and ready to go
- Have heating system checked
- Flush water heater and check for signs of leakage
- Clean or replace air filters, monthly
- Clear obstacles to heating vents so air can freely flow
- Change batteries in in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Charge the battery backup for landline telephones
- If you have a chimney check and clear of any nests from birds, squirrels or other animals.
- Cover drafty windows with plastic
- Clean dryer filter regularly
- Find and eliminate any leaks or gaps using caulking and/or weather striping
- Make sure any paints or flammable materials are stored away from heat sources
- Make sure you know where the shut-off switch is for water, gas and electric

Recommended Tips to Help Reduce Energy Costs

- Use a programmable thermostat to lower temperatures at night or when you leave home
- Use energy efficient light bulbs
- If you have ceiling fans run the fans in reverse
- Eliminate drafts under the door by using draft stopper(s)
- Cover drafty windows with plastic
- Insulate pipes
- Put caulk plates around outlets
- If you have a fireplace, remember to close the damper when fireplace is not in use
- In older homes, insulate the attic
- Caution, if you use electric space heaters, select a unit with automatic shut-off
- Consider budget billing to spread heating costs throughout the year