

Fall Winterization Checklist

SURVIVALSTOCKUP

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Prepare your home before the first freeze. Check off tasks as you finish.

START IN EARLY FALL. FINISH OUTDOOR WATER TASKS BEFORE FREEZING.

Home / person completing checks

Target completion date / local first-freeze forecast

01 HEAT & FIRE SAFETY

- ☐ **Book heating-system service**
Have a qualified technician inspect your furnace, boiler or heat pump before sustained cold.
- ☐ **Check filters and airflow**
Replace or clean filters as directed. Keep supply registers and return grilles unobstructed.
- ☐ **Inspect chimney and fireplace**
Arrange inspection and cleaning as needed before use. Check the damper and keep combustibles clear.
- ☐ **Test smoke and CO alarms**
Test each alarm; check batteries and replacement dates. Use battery-backup [CO alarms](#).

03 OUTDOOR WATER

- ☐ **Disconnect and drain hoses**
Store hoses indoors. Winterize outdoor taps according to their design; drain isolated lines where fitted.
- ☐ **Protect exposed faucets**
Add suitable [insulated faucet covers](#) after winterizing. Covers alone cannot prevent every freeze.
- ☐ **Service irrigation and pools**
Follow installer instructions for draining and winterizing. Arrange professional service when needed.

02 SEAL & INSULATE

- ☐ **Check doors and windows**
Repair gaps with suitable [weatherstripping](#) and door sweeps. Caulk fixed joints where appropriate.
- ☐ **Inspect attic and insulation**
Look for moisture or missing insulation. Have attic air leaks and recurring ice-dam causes assessed.
- ☐ **Keep vents and exits clear**
Do not cover soffit vents, combustion-air openings or appliance exhausts. Keep escape windows usable.
- ☐ **Check thermostat settings**
Test heating controls. Choose settings suited to your household and plumbing; review schedules before winter.

04 ROOF & DRAINAGE

- ☐ **Clear gutters and downspouts**
Arrange safe cleaning after leaves fall. Confirm water drains away from the foundation.
- ☐ **Inspect the roof from the ground**
Look for damaged shingles, sagging gutters or leaks. Have a roofer repair problems before snow arrives.
- ☐ **Check water-management systems**
Clear accessible drain grates and window wells. Test sump pumps and backup systems as directed.

Freeze & Storm Readiness

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Finish the indoor checks, organize supplies and record service details.

KEEP HEAT WORKING. KNOW YOUR SHUTOFF. PLAN FOR AN OUTAGE.

05 INDOOR PIPE PROTECTION

- ☐ **Find vulnerable plumbing**
Check garages, crawl spaces and exterior walls. Fit [pipe insulation](#) to exposed hot and cold lines.
- ☐ **Label the water shutoff**
Make sure adults know its location and operation. Ask a plumber about stuck valves or hidden pipe runs.
- ☐ **Add early-warning devices**
Test [water leak alarms](#) and low-temperature alerts. Know who will respond when you are away.

06 WINTER SUPPLIES & ACCESS

- ☐ **Check your outage supplies**
Prepare lights, batteries, charged power banks, water, no-cook food, medicines and warm layers.
- ☐ **Prepare paths and equipment**
Check shovels, traction material, handrails and outdoor lights. Service snow equipment as directed.
- ☐ **Set a safe backup plan**
Choose a warm place to go and arrange transport. Plan for pets, medical devices and anyone needing help.

When a hard freeze is forecast: Keep heat steady, close garages with plumbing, and open under-sink cabinets after moving cleaners out of children's reach. Follow local advice on dripping vulnerable taps. If away, leave heat at least 55°F; your home may need more. Arrange regular checks.

07 YOUR HOME'S WINTER PLAN

Main water shutoff location

Plumber / landlord / emergency phone

Outstanding repair / assigned person / due date

Heating contractor / emergency phone

Person checking home while away / phone

Next alarm, filter and supplies check date

Safety: Hire help for unsafe roof or ladder work. Never use a gas oven for heat. Keep generators outdoors, more than 20 feet from doors, windows and vents; never in a garage.

USEFUL WINTERIZATION SUPPLIES — AMAZON

[Weatherstripping](#)

[Pipe insulation](#)

[Faucet covers](#)

[Water leak alarms](#)

[DOE: home energy checklist](#)

[Red Cross: pipe protection](#)