



Winter Checklist for Home Ownership

EXTERIOR:

Gutter Maintenance

- Clean out gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams and water damage
- Ensure proper drainage away from the house

Roof Inspection

- Check for damaged or missing shingles
- Inspect the roof for leaks or potential issues

Window & Door Seals

- Check for drafts around windows and doors
- Replace or add weather stripping where needed

Exterior Faucets

- Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses
- Turn off exterior water faucets and insulate if necessary

Inspect Foundation

- Look for cracks in the foundation and seal any gaps
- Ensure proper grading to prevent water accumulation

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Heating System:

Furnace Maintenance

- Schedule a professional inspection and cleaning for your furnace
- Replace air filters regularly (every 3 months)

Chimney Cleaning

- If you have a fireplace, schedule a chimney sweep to remove creosote buildup

Programmable Thermostat

- Consider installing a programmable thermostat to regulate temperature efficiently

Interior:

Draft Protection

- Use draft stoppers at the base of doors
- Seal gaps around windows with caulking or weather stripping

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Test and replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Ensure detectors are working correctly

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Interior:

Insulate Pipes

- Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing
- Know the location of the main water shut-off valve in case of emergencies

Water Heater

- Drain a few gallons from the water heater to remove sediment
- Check for any signs of leaks

Safety

Emergency Kit

- Ensure you have an emergency kit with essentials like flashlights, blankets, and non-perishable food items

Snow Removal Equipment

- Have snow shovels, ice melt, and a snow blower ready for use
- Keep pathways clear and salted to prevent slips and falls

Tree Maintenance

- Trim branches that could potentially break under heavy snow
- Remove dead branches to prevent damage during storms

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General Maintenance:

Check Home Insurance

- Review your home insurance policy and ensure it covers winter-related issues

Winterize Lawn Equipment

- Store or winterize lawnmowers and other garden tools

Inspect Insulation

- Check attic and wall insulation for any gaps or damage

By reviewing and completing this checklist, you will be well prepared to face the challenges winter can bring and keep your home in good condition throughout the colder months.



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