

# WINTER HOME **MAINTENANCE** CHECKLIST

## Suppress storm damage

- ☐ Regularly inspect your roof for damaged or missing shingles, cracked flashing, or deteriorated seals around vents, chimneys, and skylights
- ☐ Verify that your attic insulation is in good condition and meets recommended R-values for your region
- ☐ Seal gaps around pipes and openings with weatherstripping and caulk

## Clean gutters and downspouts

- ☐ Schedule regular gutter and downspout cleaning, especially in the fall when leaves are shedding
- ☐ If DIYing, remove all debris, leaves, and twigs to ensure proper water flow
- ☐ Consider installing gutter guards or screens to prevent debris from entering in the first place

## Clear walkways

- ☐ Regularly shovel and de-ice walkways, driveways, and stairs
- ☐ Shovel snow in layers

## Prune trees and bushes

- ☐ Inspect trees and bushes for branches that are weak, dead, or overhanging
- ☐ Trim branches close to your house, roof, and utility lines. For taller trees, pole pruners provide that extra reach and are most useful for trimming

## Prevent frozen pipes

- ☐ Use foam pipe insulation or heating tape to insulate pipes in unheated areas, like crawl spaces, attics, and basements
- ☐ Seal any gaps or cracks in the walls, floors, windows, or foundation that allow cold air to infiltrate to reach pipes
- ☐ During very cold nights, leave a slow drip from indoor faucets that connect to pipes vulnerable to freezing



## Check carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers

- ☐ Change detector batteries annually, ideally before winter
- ☐ Check your detectors' expiration date or lifespan, replacing them as needed
- ☐ Install detectors and fire extinguishers on every level of the home, including the basement

## Winterize your sump pump

- ☐ Insulate the discharge pipe using foam pipe insulation or heat tape
- ☐ Cover the sump pit with a lid or airtight cover to block cold air

## Service heating systems and heat sources

- ☐ If your heating system has an air filter, replace it around every 1-3 months
- ☐ Replace heat exchangers, compressors, fans, and ducts in your furnaces
- ☐ Install a fireplace spark guard to prevent fires

## Protect plants and outdoor spaces from freezing

- ☐ Apply a layer of mulch to garden beds to insulate plant roots and protect them from freezing temperatures
- ☐ Cover delicate plants with frost cloth or burlap to shield them from cold winds and frost
- ☐ If you have moveable potted plants, bring them indoors or place them in a sheltered area to prevent freezing
- ☐ Store or cover outdoor furniture to protect them from winter weather and prolong its durability

## Stock up on supplies for winter

- ☐ Make sure your kit has warm clothing, nonperishable food, water, flashlights, batteries, first aid kits, snow removal tools, and a backup power source
- ☐ If you have a vehicle, service it before winter to ensure it's in good working condition
- ☐ Compile a list of all your emergency contacts. Aside from local authorities, this should include your family, neighbors, and even your utility company