

Winter Home Safety Tips

Protect your home and weather the cold.

For most of us, wintertime is a perfect opportunity to break out comfy wool blankets, make some hot chocolate, and enjoy the warmth of a fireplace.

But while you snuggle and get warm, your house stays exposed to the elements.

Here are some steps you can take to keep your home safe and comfortable this winter, so you can enjoy the wonders of the season knowing you are prepared for whatever winter brings.

Keep the indoors cozy and dry.

ADJUST THE HEATING SYSTEM

Lower the thermostat and save on your heating bill. But keep the system set to at least 65 degrees.

RUN FANS IN REVERSE

Running a fan clockwise circulates the warm air from the ceiling back into the living space.

PREVENT FREEZING PIPES

Remove exterior hoses and cover pipes with insulation so they don't freeze and crack.

CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS

Remove debris so runoff drains away from your home

CHECK WEATHER STRIPPING

Increase your home's energy efficiency by checking the weather stripping on your doors and windows and fixing any leaks.

Keep people and pets safe all season.

CHECK YOUR DETECTORS

Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working and have new batteries.

CHECK ON YOUR NEIGHBORS

Elderly or disabled neighbors may need extra help during harsh weather.

LISTEN TO LOCAL NEWS OUTLETS

Follow the advice of your local officials. Go to a public shelter if you lose power.

CLEAR SPACE AROUND HEAT AND FLAME

Move drapery, paper, and other materials away from heat sources, and never leave a candle unattended.

DON'T FORGET YOUR PETS

Bring them indoors, or make sure they have warm, dry shelter.

TAKE CARE DURING POWER OUTAGES

If an outage lasts several hours, be sure to throw away spoiled food. And never use a generator, camp stove, or grill indoors.

KEEP BATTERIES CHARGED

Be prepared for power outages by keeping batteries charged. However, lithium batteries generate heat, so charge them in a safe place and follow the manufacturer's instructions.