

Winter Weather- How to Prepare

General:

- For emergency's call 911.
- Never use a generator or open flame inside your home to heat yourself. This can lead to death with carbon monoxide poisoning.
- During cold weather, bring your pets, livestock, and other property inside that are not normally exposed to cold weather.
- Check your locations forecast for up-to-date weather in your area.
- If you have to be outside in cold weather, prepare by having the correct type of clothing for the forecasted weather as frostbite and hypothermia can set in quickly with the incorrect types of clothing or protection.
- Know where your water shut off is located in your home or building. Make sure to have appropriate hardware/tools to shut off the water meter if necessary.
- If you experience a broken pipe during freezing weather, shut off water meter immediately and call a licensed plumber for repairs.
- Make sure you always have at least one week of medications available. If roads close due to inclement winter weather and can't get to the pharmacy, you want to make sure you're still able to take care of your health.
- During extreme cold weather, check on your neighbors.
- Stock up on essentials: non-perishable foods, bottled water, first aid kit, candles, duct tape, batteries, baby food, pet food, extra toiletries, space heater, lighter, can opener, radio (battery or hand cranked), basic toolkit, etc.
Types of non-perishable foods: nuts, trail mixes, canned vegetables, protein bars, granola bars, beans, nut-based butters, as these foods require little to no cooking in case of power and utility outages.
It is recommended to have at least 1-gallon of fresh water per person a day for at least 3-days.
- Keep cell phone or other communication devices charged. It is advisable to keep a spare charger for your cell phone or other communication device that is powered by your vehicle.

Home:

- If you have sinks, faucets, and showers on an exterior wall, leave a small trickle of water running and the cabinets open so heat can reach the pipes. It is recommended to leave a small trickle of water running on all sinks, faucets, and showers if you are unaware if a pipe is on an exterior wall. Better to be safe.
- Test your furnace for proper function. If the furnace is not operating properly, call a licensed HVAC company for repairs. Walk around your house and make sure no registers or grills are blocked; that way, the warm air can flow smoothly throughout the house.
- Set your furnace thermostat (heat) to a minimum of 60 degrees to heat the open spaces within the home or building.
- Turn off all landscape irrigation systems and drain the main line if available. Call licensed irrigation company for assistance.
- Cover all exterior water spigots with appropriate insulation. Insulation covers can be purchased at your local hardware store.

- Cover and insulate all exterior pipes that are visible on your home with appropriate insulation. Insulation can be purchased at your local hardware store.
- If your home or building is equipped with a fireplace, test for proper function before using to heat the area. If service is required, call a professional fireplace company for repairs.
- If the fireplace is not being used, close the flue pipe to prevent cold air from leaking into the fireplace.
- Keep garage doors down and closed at all times.
- If you have a crawlspace, close the vents, and make sure that your heater is working and set between at least 60 degrees.
- If your pipes do freeze, use an electrical space heater to thaw them out but be careful-make sure it's away from objects and that you don't leave it unattended.
- Keep out cold with insulation, caulking, and weather stripping.
- Reverse the Ceiling Fans: This tip for winter preparation is one of the easiest on the list. The ceiling fans in your home are excellent for cooling the room, especially during the summer. But reversing them during the winter can make your home warmer and more energy efficient. During the summer, your fan should rotate counterclockwise because it distributes cooler air throughout the room. Cooler air stays close to the ground while hot air rises. But, when the winter comes, reverse the fan, and make it run clockwise. This method pushes the cool air up and the warm air down. Switching your ceiling fans based on the season can make your house more energy efficient and lower your utility bills.
- Winterize pool by draining pumps or making sure your winterization schedule has started with automatic systems.
- Bring plants that are susceptible to freeze damage inside. If this is not possible, cover plants with appropriate freeze protection cloths.
- Check exterior door thresholds and weather stripping. Replace as needed to prevent air leaks.
- Caulk windows, exterior openings, window units, etc. with high quality caulking to prevent air leaks.
- Clear debris from gutters.
- Inspect roof for leaks.

Helpful websites:

1. <https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather#prepare>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/beforestorm/preparehome.html>
3. <https://www.weather.gov/safety/cold-before>



Home Winter Preparedness Checklist











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|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Select Foods
See Additional Checklist | <input type="checkbox"/>  Warm Clothing
Hats, Mittens, Parkas, Boots | <input type="checkbox"/>  Flashlights & Extra Batteries |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Disposable Dishware
Plates, Bowls, Utensils | <input type="checkbox"/>  Extra Blankets | <input type="checkbox"/>  First Aid Kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Specialty Items
Meds, Infant Formula, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/>  Matches
For Candles & Gas Fireplaces | <input type="checkbox"/>  Cell Phone
Fully Charged |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Portable Radio
AM/FM/Wx Radio & Batteries | <input type="checkbox"/>  Shovel/Snow Blower
Check condition & maintain | <input type="checkbox"/>  Firewood
For Wood Fireplaces |



Car Winterization Checklist











- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Check Engine Fluid Levels
Oil, Coolant, Washer Fluid, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/>  Inspect Tire Tread
Replace if Near Wear Limit |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Test Battery
Replace if Necessary | <input type="checkbox"/>  Install Snow Tires if You Own a Set |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Use Deicing Washer Fluid
Clean Windshield at Low Temps | <input type="checkbox"/>  Test Headlights & Taillights |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Switch to Synthetic Oil
Handles the Cold Better | <input type="checkbox"/>  Add & Inspect Winter Survival Kit |



Home Winter Survival Food Checklist



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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Canned Fruits and Vegetables
Requires a Manual Can Opener | <input type="checkbox"/>  Bread and Condiments
Keep Bread Frozen to Last Longer |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Crackers, Nuts, Fruit Bars, Chips
High Energy Foods | <input type="checkbox"/>  Cereal and Toaster Pastries |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Soups
Some Soups Require Water or Heating | <input type="checkbox"/>  Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Cookies and Hard Candy | <input type="checkbox"/>  Bottled Water
1 gallon per person, per day (for at least 3 days) |



Car Winter Survival Kit Checklist



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|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Flashlight & Extra Batteries | <input type="checkbox"/>  Blankets/Sleeping Bag | <input type="checkbox"/>  Extra Clothing
Hats, Mittens, Parkas, Boots |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  First Aid Kit | <input type="checkbox"/>  Non-Perishable Food
Granola Bars, Dried nuts, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/>  Sand/Kitty Litter
Used for Traction |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Snow Shovel | <input type="checkbox"/>  Bottled Water | <input type="checkbox"/>  Cell Phone & Charger |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Ice Scraper with Brush | <input type="checkbox"/>  Booster Cables | <input type="checkbox"/>  Flares/Triangles & other Bright Objects |