

Winter Home Maintenance Checklist

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1. Exterior & Masonry

Cold weather, freeze-thaw cycles, and ice can damage concrete, brick, and stone if small issues are ignored.

- Inspect front steps, walkways, and driveways for cracks, heaving, or loose pavers.
- Check that handrails at steps and walkways are secure and not wobbling.
- Look for areas where water pools or doesn't drain away from the house.
- Ensure downspouts discharge away from foundations (add extensions if needed).
- Seal or patch minor concrete cracks before deep freeze when possible.
- Avoid using harsh rock salt directly on decorative masonry or pavers; use safer ice-melt products instead.

2. Roof, Gutters & Drainage

- Clean gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams and overflow.
- Visually inspect the roof from the ground for missing, curling, or broken shingles.
- Check that attic vents are not blocked; proper ventilation helps prevent ice dams.
- Confirm that basement or yard drains are not clogged with leaves or debris.
- If you see stains on interior ceilings, note them and consider an inspection before winter deepens.

3. Interior Heat & Energy

A few small upgrades can keep your home warmer and lower your energy bills.

- Service your boiler or furnace according to manufacturer recommendations.
- Replace or clean furnace filters as recommended.
- Bleed radiators (if applicable) so they heat evenly.
- Check for drafts around windows and doors; add weatherstripping or draft stoppers.
- Consider insulating exposed pipes in unheated areas (garage, crawlspace, basement).
- Test carbon monoxide and smoke detectors and replace batteries.

4. Safety & Emergency Prep

- Keep a small snow shovel and ice melt where you can access them easily.
- Map out clear, safe walking paths from the street to your front door.
- Store flashlights and backup batteries in a consistent, easy-to-find location.
- Know where your main water shutoff valve is in case of a burst pipe.
- Review your family emergency plan, especially if anyone relies on powered medical equipment.

This checklist is general in nature. Extreme weather, unusual building conditions, or unique mechanical systems may require additional steps.

Consult licensed professionals for roof, electrical, or structural concerns.