



Winter Checklist

Warm Up To Winter in Your Forever Home

Your first winter in your Forever Home is an opportunity to create warm memories and enjoy the comfort of a well-prepared space. This checklist ensures your home is ready to handle winter's demands while keeping your family safe, cozy, and stress-free. Let the snow fall, and settle into the season with confidence!

OUTDOOR TASKS

- **Check Gutters and Downspouts:** Ensure they're clean and securely fastened to prevent ice dams and water damage.
- **Inspect the Roof:** Look for loose or missing shingles and repair them to avoid leaks from melting snow.
- **Drain and Shut Off Outdoor Faucets:** Disconnect and drain garden hoses, and shut off exterior water valves to prevent freezing pipes.
- **Seal Exterior Cracks:** Inspect your home's foundation, siding, and windows for cracks or gaps, and seal them to keep cold air and pests out.
- **Store Outdoor Furniture:** Clean and store patio furniture, grills, and garden tools to protect them from snow and ice damage.
- **Stock Up on Snow Tools:** Have snow shovels, salt, or sand ready for clearing driveways and walkways. Test your snowblower to ensure it's working properly.
- **Prepare for Power Outages:** Test your generator and have fuel stored safely for emergencies.

INDOOR TASKS

- **Test Heating Systems:** Run your furnace to ensure it's working efficiently. Replace the filter and consider scheduling a professional inspection, if needed.
- **Adjust Thermostats:** Set your thermostat to an efficient temperature, and consider using a programmable model to save on heating costs.
- **Seal Windows and Doors:** Use insulating film or draft stoppers to keep the cold out and the warmth in.
- **Inspect Insulation:** Check attic and basement insulation to ensure your home stays warm and energy-efficient throughout the winter.
- **Test Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Ensure all devices are working properly and replace batteries if needed. This is especially important as you'll be using heating systems more frequently.
- **Check Weatherstripping:** Inspect doors and windows for drafts and add or replace weatherstripping to improve energy efficiency.
- **Protect Pipes:** Insulate exposed pipes in unheated areas like basements and garages to prevent freezing and bursting.
- **Prepare Emergency Supplies:** Stock up on essentials like flashlights, batteries, blankets, and a first aid kit in case of winter storms or power outages.

WINTER HOME HELPERS

- This is a good time to clean out and wipe down your pantry and food cupboards. It will allow you to get rid of expired items and let you know what you need to stock up on for the winter months.
- Declutter your space. Winter is an ideal time to remove items you no longer need or use and makes it easier to keep things clean.
- Place mats at entryways to catch snow and slush, protecting your floors.



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