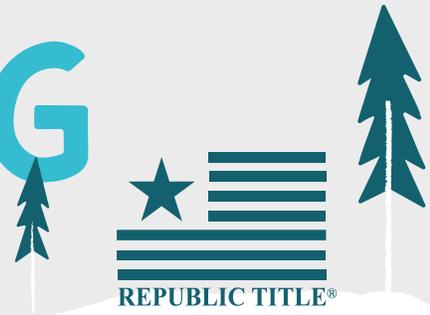


# WINTERIZING

## *your home*



### CHECK THE EXTERIOR, DOORS AND WINDOWS

- Inspect exterior for crevice cracks and exposed entry points around pipes; seal them.
- Use weather stripping around doors to prevent cold air from entering the home and caulk windows.
- Replace cracked glass in windows and, if you end up replacing the entire window, prime and paint exposed wood.

### HVAC SYSTEMS

- Get your HVAC system serviced, and have your duct work checked to be sure the air flow is uninterrupted and free of holes from pests.
- Reverse all ceiling fans in the house. This will help push warm air downward and force it to recirculate.
- Change the air filters in your home.
- Check the cold air return vents and make sure they are not blocked by furniture. Your furnace needs these to operate at high efficiency.

### SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

- Install a carbon monoxide detector near your furnace and/or water heater.
- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- After replacing batteries, test all detectors to make sure they work.
- Buy a fire extinguisher or replace your existing one if it is older than 10 years.

### CHECK FOUNDATIONS

- Rake away all debris and vegetation from the foundation.
- Seal up entry points to keep small animals from crawling under the house.
- Tuckpoint or seal foundation cracks. Mice can slip through space as thin as a dime.
- Inspect sill plates for dry rot or pest infestation.
- Secure crawlspace entrances.

### PREVENT PLUMBING FREEZES

- Locate your water main in the event you need to shut it off in an emergency.
- Shut off the water to your hose bibs inside your house (via a turnoff valve), and drain the lines. Then insulate the spigot itself.
- Insulate exposed plumbing pipes that pass through unheated areas of your home, like the garage for instance.
- Flush your water heater to remove built-up sediment.
- If you go on vacation, leave the heat on, set to at least 55 degrees.

### GET THE FIREPLACE READY

- Cap or screen the top of the chimney to keep out rodents and birds.
- If the chimney hasn't been cleaned for a while, call a chimney sweep to remove soot and creosote.
- Buy firewood or chop wood. Store it in a dry place away from the exterior of your home.
- Inspect the fireplace damper for proper opening and closing.
- Check the mortar between bricks and tuckpoint if necessary.

### PREPARE LANDSCAPING & OUTDOOR SURFACES

- Trim trees if branches hang too close to the house or electrical wires.
- Turn off your sprinkler system.
- Clear the gutters of fallen leaves and debris.
- Ask a gardener when your trees should be pruned to prevent winter injury.
- Plant spring flower bulbs and lift bulbs that cannot winter over such as dahlias in areas where the ground freezes.
- Seal driveways, brick patios and wood decks.
- Move sensitive potted plants indoors or to a sheltered area.



# WINTER WEATHER

emergency preparedness



## KNOW THE SIGNS OF HYPOTHERMIA

### Signs of Hypothermia in Adults:

Shivering  
Exhaustion or feeling very tired  
Confusion  
Fumbling hands  
Memory loss  
Slurred speech  
Drowsiness

### Signs of Hypothermia in Babies:

bright red, cold skin  
very low energy

Hypothermia is a medical emergency. If you notice any of the above signs, take the person's temperature. If it is below 95° F, get medical attention immediately! Warm drinks can help increase body temperature, but never give alcoholic drinks.

## STOCK UP ON THE BASICS BEFORE ANYTHING HAPPENS

- Extra Gallons of Water or Bottled Water
- Extra Baby Food/Formula
- Extra Pet Food
- Extra Medication
- Shelf Stable Meals
- Shelf Stable Snacks
- Battery Powered or Crank Flashlight
- Battery Powered or Crank Radio
- Consider a Portable Generator
- Extra hats, coats, mittens, and blankets
- A Warm Winter Coat
- Windshield scraper
- Shovel
- First Aid Kit
- Tow Chains or Rope
- Tire Chain if you need to drive
- Cat Litter or Sand to help tires get traction



## NOTICE

- 1** This is an emergency supply. Don't use it! Save it for a true crisis.  
  
Never attempt to use a gas or charcoal burning appliance, camp stove or generator in enclosed spaces. This can cause Carbon Monoxide poisoning.
- 2**
- 3** In any true emergency call 911



## TO DO BEFORE THE STORM

- Create a winter storm emergency kit from the above list.
- Locate the main water line to your house.
- Fill up your car with gas.
- Winterize your home. (See the back for list)
- Know your medical needs.
- Replace wiper fluid with a wintertime mixture.
- Make sure your tires have air in them.
- Charge all your devices and power strips.
- Lower the heat in your house a few degrees if you can to help avoid grid failure.

## IF YOU LOSE POWER



- Immediately turn off the water to your house. Then turn on all the faucets to your house and let the water flow until it stops. This ensures there is no water in your pipes that can burst.
- Unplug Valuable devices in your house like TVs, computers, and gaming systems.
- Choose one room in your house to "Live" in.
- Close your garage door.
- Keep your freezer and refrigerator closed.
- Know the signs of hypothermia and monitor all loved ones.
- Cover your windows with blankets if you can.
- Open your cabinets to let warmer air around the pipes.



## IF YOU LOSE WATER

- Turn off the power to your water heater if your power isn't off.
- Use bottled water if you need to drink or cook.
- If you have lost power, when you drain your faucets, save the water in the tub & sink to use.
- If you have saved water you can use it to flush toilets.

## AFTER THE STORM



- Check to make sure no pipes burst before turning your water back on.
- If you must leave your house, try to keep roads clear for emergency vehicles and be careful when driving as roads could still be iced and dangerous.
- Apply for FEMA if it applies to you.
- Call any plumbers or other contractors to fix immediate damage.
- File any insurance claims as soon as possible.