

## Winterization: Tips and Tricks that you need to know

Hot cider, pumpkins and Trick or Treating are right around the corner. But something else, something called winter will be here before you know it. Looking down at your flip flopped feet, it may be hard to imagine, but now is the time to get your home ready to brave the cold, snow and ice of a long winter.

### Checklist for inside your home:

- \_ Have furnace serviced and change filter
- \_ Inspect your ducts for any indication of mold, pest damage or heavy soil
- \_ Examine and clean your chimney, look for any blockages, also make sure wood stoves and fireplaces are in working order
- \_ Consider shrink wrapping windows to help keep warm air in and heating costs down
- \_ Reversing your ceiling fans can help force warm air down
- \_ Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- \_ Put an insulating blanket over your water heater
- \_ Insulate pipes in non-heated areas, like garages or basements
- \_ Caulk windows and base boards that may let drafts in



Keeping an emergency kit with the following items will help keep you safe, in case the power goes out in the winter:

- Flashlights/ Extra Batteries
- Candles/Matches/lighters
- Battery powered radio
- Water, one gallon per person per day, don't forget about pets!
- Non-perishable food, 3 days worth
- Manual can opener
- First Aid Kit
- Heavy blankets/Clothing
- Whistle for help

### Checklist for outside your home:

- \_ Clean off roof and clean out gutters, this helps when there is heavy snow buildup
- \_ Shut off and drain out both sprinkler systems and garden hoses
- \_ Clean and cover air conditioning units
- \_ Get rid of low tree branches or damaged trees that could pose a threat to your home during storms
- \_ Replace weather stripping under doors and windows
- \_ Put up storm windows and doors.



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