

# Checklist

## Winterize Your Home

Keep the cold air out & the warm air in when the weather outside is frightful!

### EXTERIOR

- Fill all cracks & crevices in your foundation to prevent your house from leaking heat & sucking up extra energy. Seal hard-to-reach or oddly shaped gaps with an expandable foam.
- Have your chimney & fireplace cleaned & inspected by a professional. Before you light the first log, be sure the chimney cap is intact and your chimney liner, firebox, smoke chamber & damper are in good working condition.
- Clean your gutters, then install an ice shield on your roof to protect against ice dams that form at the edge of a roof & prevent melting snow from draining.
- Shelter foliage from falling ice & snow under a reusable A-frame structure. Wrap twine around the middle of tall & narrow greenery to keep individual branches from breaking under the weight of heavy snow. Don't forget to protect small shrubs from the wind by wrapping them with burlap & stapling the material to stakes.
- Trim branches that loom over your rooftop, power lines or driveway to prevent them from snapping under the weight of snow.
- Remove your air conditioner from you window, or securely wrap it with an approved tarp or plastic over to stop cold air from seeping in. If your unit has a water valve, shut off valve & drain it.
- Protect outdoor furniture & grills from snow & ice. Store in a dry, covered place or put a secure cover on them. If you have a gas grill, close the propane tank valve & leave outside.
- Turn your sprinkler system off & disconnect hoses from outside faucets.

### INTERIOR

- Flush your water heater to clear any built-up sediment, then wrap it with an appropriately sized insulation blanket to avoid heat escaping from the unit and using more energy than it needs.
- Bring your home into the 21st century with a smart thermostat. Many options can modify the comfort level based on occupancy - increasing the warmth when you're around and lowering the temperature when you leave - to save costs & simplify home life.
- Avoid unwanted airflow in & out of your home by installing a storm door and sealing gaps around door and window frames with weatherstripping. Putting in a door sweep can also prevent chills (and pests) from entering underneath the door.
- Stop heat from rising out of your home by adding extra insulation between your walls, attic floor and basement ceiling.
- Prevent frozen pipes - and the mess & property damage they cause. Use foam rubber insulation to keep the exposed metal from getting too cold.
- Change your furnace filters often to allow unimpeded airflow & reduce energy demand. Swap out fiberglass or paper furnace-filters every 1-2 months; clean or change electrostatic or HEPA filters every 2-4 months.
- Schedule an energy audit with your local service provider to identify any inefficiencies that you may have overlooked in your own visual inspection. A professional assessment can lead to upgrades that can notably reduce energy bills.