

Get Your Home in Top Shape for Winter

Is your property ready for winter? Whether you've lived in our snowy climate your entire life or this is your first Canadian winter, a home checklist is a helpful tool to help you keep your home warm all season.

AROUND THE HOUSE

- **Clean the gutters** around your roof.
- **Examine your roof, gutters, siding, chimney and fireplace** for any damage and leaks, and fix any problems before the heavy snow falls.
- **Look for leaks and drafts in your home** and repair them.

Are the systems of your home labeled in your fuse box? A properly labeled fuse box will save you time and aggravation in the event of a power outage.

IN THE YARD

- **Cover the bases of your shrubs**, perennial plants and flower beds with mulch.
- **Clear debris**, such as branches and leaves, from your yard.
- **Perform standard maintenance on your snow blower**, and make sure that your snow shovel and ice scraper are in good working order. Don't forget to put a bucket of road salt or sand by the door for icy mornings.

Before putting your lawnmower away for the winter, be sure to pour fuel stabilizer in the gas tank, clean grass clippings from the mower deck and perform other preventative maintenance. You'll be glad you did so when spring arrives.





Your energy-saving winter home checklist

✓ **Call your HVAC professional:** Schedule routine maintenance of your heating system now to prevent problems later.

✓ **Stop drafts:** Use caulk or weather stripping to seal any drafts. If you have storm doors or windows, be sure to install them now.

Have you thought about using bubble wrap to insulate your windows? The bubble pockets trap cold air, which keeps your home snugly warm.

Source: Business Insider

✓ **Insulate your pipes:** Use fiberglass or preformed pipe-sleeve insulation on your indoor water pipes.

✓ **Reverse your ceiling fans;** this forces hot air down making the rooms of your home warm and toasty.

Professionals to have on call

Keep the phone numbers of handymen and professionals on your refrigerator or another central location. Here are a few professionals to include on your list:

- A snow removal service
- Your auto club or other emergency auto service
- Your home heating oil or gas service
- Pest control
- Your local utility company
- A plumber

SMITH PLUMBING
(123) 456-8907

JAY'S AUTO SERVICE
(123) 456-9078

PEST CONTROL
(123) 456-0789

SNOW SERVICE
(123) 456-7890