

Clark's Checklist for Winterizing Your Home!

Plumbing:

- Exterior Faucets:** Turn off the valve and ensure there is no water in the line between it and the faucet. This will help prevent the water in the lines from freezing, expanding, and breaking pipes and the faucet itself.
- Hoses:** Drain garden hoses.
- Sump Pump:** Consider a battery powered backup for your sump pump in case of heavy rain during a power outage.
- General:** If you go on vacation, leave the heat on and set to at least 55 degrees to prevent plumbing freezes. Shut off the main water supply.

Landscaping

- Trees:** Trim any trees that hang close to the house, driveway, or electrical wires. They are likely to injure people or property and are prone to fall in windy weather or break under the weight of snow and ice.

Safety:

- Emergency Kit:** Prepare an emergency kit with bottle water, non-perishable food supplies, including pet food (if you own a pet), blankets, and a first-aid kit.
- Batteries:** Check and replace batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Fire Extinguisher:** Buy a fire extinguisher or replace extinguishers older than 10 years.

Exterior:

- Roof:** Maintain roofing and flashing by replacing damaged or worn parts so water cannot enter the home.
- Gutters:** Clean your gutters and use a hose to spray water down the downspouts to clear away debris.
- Window & Doors:** Block air leaks by caulking windows and use weather stripping around doors to prevent cold air from entering the home.
- Chimney:** Prevent chimney fires by calling a chimney sweep to inspect and clean your chimney. Inspect the fireplace damper for proper opening and closing.
- General:** Inspect around pipes & wires, caulk and seal as necessary.

Heating:

- Furnace:** Call an HVAC professional to do a service. Have them do a safety check for carbon monoxide, clean and replace air filters, clean motor and fan, inspect gas piping to furnace, check blower operation.
- Heating Ducts:** While the HVAC professional is at your home have them inspect the heating ducts and seal if necessary. Valuable heated air can escape from the ducts before making it to the vents.
- Exterior HVAC:** Clean snow off the HVAC. Depending on your type of furnace, a unit covered in snow will not function as efficiently and can damage the machine.
- Insulation:** Adding more fiberglass insulation in your attic can boost the energy efficiency of your home.
- Filters:** Stock up on furnace filters and change them regularly.

Our Business Is Your Project