

10 Reasons to Winterize Your Home

The cold winter months can wreak havoc on your home's plumbing system if you aren't prepared for the temperature drop. Frozen water in pipes can be inconvenient at best and destructive at worst. As a good preventive measure get ready for winter with this winterize plumbing checklist.

1. Locate Your Water Main

Do you know that most people don't even know where their main shut off is!!! Be sure you can locate your water main in case of an emergency. Should you be faced with a burst pipe due to freezing you'll want to be able to shut off the water quickly to minimize any damage.

2. Fix Leaks

Even the smallest water leak can turn into a big problem when temperatures drop. Take the time to check all exposed pipes indoors and out for leaks. If your pipes are insulated feel for moisture that might have been soaked up by the insulation if there is a hidden leak.

3. Insulate Pipes

A basic preventive measure you can take is to make sure that any exposed pipes are well insulated. To locate exposed pipes look in your attic, crawl space, and garage. If you can see the pipe it needs to be wrapped with insulation foam.

4. Outside Hose Bibs

Protecting the hose bibs and pipes from the cold is very important. Start by removing any garden hoses that may be connected to outdoor faucets. By doing this you ensure that water doesn't stay trapped in the hose bib where it can freeze and damage pipes. Drain any water the hoses may have in them before storing. Protect garden hoses by storing them in the garage or shed during winter.

5. Sprinkler System

The pipes of your irrigation system are a likely place for water to collect and then freeze in cold weather. To winterize your sprinkler system turn off the water and flush out any collected water by turning on each valve.

6. Seasonal Shut Down

If you are shutting down a property for several months you should always shut off the water supply and drain the plumbing system. If a leak were to occur without occupancy, the damage could be catastrophic.

7. Eavestroughs

Remove any debris from your home's eavestroughs so that winter's rain and melting snow can drain. Clogged drains can form ice dams, in which water backs up, freezes and causes water to seep into the house. As you're cleaning, look for leaks and misaligned pipes. Also, make sure the downspouts are carrying water away from the house's foundation.

8. Winter Weather Survival Kit

In the event of any emergency it's easy to feel panic so having a checklist in place can help alleviate some of that.

- Flashlight
- Candles
- Matches
- A battery-powered radio – batteries
- Blankets
- Water bottle

9. Smoke Alarm and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and install fresh batteries.

10. Call Plumbing Now for your prevention inspection