

Your Home Maintenance Checklist For Winter

Keep your home — and family — warm and cozy with these simple tips for cool weather. Visit my.aarpfoundation.org for more helpful information, including programs that can help when you need it most.



Clean or replace furnace filters <i>Have your fuel tanks filled if needed and keep an eye on levels throughout the winter</i>
Check for signs of water leaks <i>Look near sinks, toilets, showers, bathtubs, dishwasher and washing machine for pooling water or dampness</i>
Change batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors <i>Replace batteries in devices to make sure they are working and up-to-date</i>
Prevent pipes from freezing <i>Insulate pipes near windows and set the heat to no lower than 55 degrees F</i>
Clean your clothes dryer vent and hose <i>Keep your dryer working efficiently to save on energy bills and prevent fires</i>
Stop damaging ice dams <i>Proper attic insulation is the first step, but if you see ice dams or icicles forming, have someone rake the snow off your roof with a roof rake and install heating cables</i>
Reverse ceiling fan direction to clockwise to retain heat <i>Turn fan off, wait until it's still and look for the direction switch above the blades</i>
Repair uneven or loose floorboards, stair treads, and handrails <i>Keep entryways clear of debris and add doormats to prevent falls</i>
Prep to remove snow and ice from pathways <i>Make sure to have snow shovels and ice-melting compound within easy reach</i>
Replace missing caulk or grout in bathrooms and kitchens <i>Filling gaps can help prevent leaks or mold damage</i>
Seal up drafts around doors and windows <i>Use weatherstripping or draft stoppers to keep warm air in and heating costs down</i>
Have your chimney and fireplace inspected <i>Clean wood-burning fireplaces to remove soot and debris that could be a fire hazard</i>
Stock up on essentials before the first snow <i>Keep extra nonperishable food, water, medicine, and pet supplies on hand in the event of bad weather</i>

Other Resources to Ease Your Budget

- ✓ **Save Money.** You may qualify for Property Tax-Aide relief that frees up room in your budget for essentials like food, medicine, rent, or your mortgage. [Find out if you are eligible.](#)
- ✓ **Make over your job search.** Looking for work after 50 has its challenges. Learn what you need to know to [land a better-paying job.](#)
- ✓ **Get Assistance.** Find help paying for food, rides, housing, and healthcare in your area. [Search our database](#) for local free and low-cost service providers near you.

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