

2017 Winter Reminders



The following are tips to help you prepare for winter:

Furnace Inspection:

- * Call an HVAC professional to inspect your furnace and clean ducts.
- * Stock up on furnace filters and change them monthly.

Check the Exterior, Doors and Windows:

- * Inspect exterior for entry points for cold air, especially around pipes, and seal them.
- * Use weather-stripping around doors to prevent cold air from entering and caulk windows.
- * Switch out summer screens with storm windows and doors.
- * Check your windows and make sure they are locked. If they aren't locked, they are leaking.

Inspect Roof, Gutters, and Downspout

- * Cap or screen the top of the chimney to keep out rodents and birds.
- * Check flashing to ensure water cannot enter the home.
- * Replace worn roof or missing shingles.
- * Keep ridge vents and vents at eaves free of debris.
- * Clean out gutters and downspouts to avoid ice dams.
- * Consider installing leaf guards on the gutters.

Prevent Plumbing Freezes

- * Drain and disconnect all garden hoses.
- * Insulate exposed plumbing pipes.
- * Locate your water main in the event you need to shut it off in an emergency.
- * If you go on vacation, leave the heat on, set to 55-65 degrees.

Prepare Landscaping & Outdoor Surfaces

- * Have your irrigation system winterized properly.
- * Trim tree branches that hang too close to the house and over walkways
- * Bring patio furniture indoors or protect with a cover.
- * Scrub your grill with a wire brush and wash the grease tray with dish soap to prevent mildew or mold.

Prepare an Emergency Kit

- * Buy indoor candles and matches/lighter for use during a power outage.
- * Find the phone numbers for your utility companies and keep them handy.
- * Store bottled water and non-perishable food supplies (including pet food), blankets and a first-aid kit.

Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- * Vacuuming your detectors to remove dust, replacing the batteries, and testing your devices is a great habit to get into.