

WINTERIZE YOUR HOME FROM THE INSIDE OUT



Direct Energy has prepared a home maintenance checklist to ensure that you have the tips you need to increase energy efficiency, protect the lifespan of your home's components and make your property safe before the brutal cold season begins.

INDOORS

We spend a lot more time indoors during the winter season, especially when the chill becomes unbearable. Make your home more comfortable and safe with the following winter-prep tips:

- Inspect doors and windows for cracks/drafts; use caulking and weather stripping to seal any gaps
- Clean or replace furnace filters
- Get a furnace tuneup by a qualified HVAC technician
- Inspect for and clean out debris and residue from fireplace/chimney
- Test smoke alarms. Batteries should be replaced bi-annually (ideally when the clocks change for DST and ST)
- Test carbon monoxide detectors - replace batteries annually
- Switch the ceiling fan rotation clockwise to blow warm air down
- Clean home humidifiers
- Check the attic, basement and crawl spaces for proper air ventilation and insulation
- Replace an older thermostat with a programmable unit to save money on heating costs
- Assemble an emergency preparedness kit for your home and vehicle



DID YOU KNOW?

- Missing or damaged shingles can cause water leakage. The section of your roof that gets the most exposure to the sun requires your closest attention. Make a thorough inspection and call a professional if repairs are needed.
- Most homes in Canada are heated by furnaces or other appliances that run on natural gas or oil, increasing the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning in the winter. To ensure safety, install certified carbon monoxide alarms (accredited by the Standards Council of Canada) in hallways and near sleeping areas.
- Let Direct Energy Home Services give your heating system a tuneup. Need to replace your furnace? Call for a free in-home estimate. Our certified technicians are here to help with all your home service needs.

IN CALGARY: 403-910-0586 IN EDMONTON: 780-306-1334

Learn more at directenergy.ca

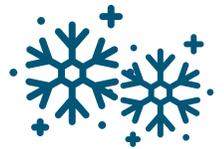
WINTERIZE YOUR HOME FROM THE INSIDE OUT



OUTDOORS

Your home's exterior will endure the brunt of winter, so protecting the outside structure, lawn and outdoor equipment is crucial for proper winterization.

- Turn off exterior faucets and irrigation systems (outdoor pipes, sprinkler heads, etc.)
- Detach, drain and store hoses
- Insulate faucets/pipes
- Clean and remove debris from eavestroughs and gutter downspouts
- Ensure downspouts extend away from the house to prevent flooding and water damage
- Trim branches away from your home and power lines
- Clean up garden beds and wrap shrubs
- Inspect roof and replace missing or damaged shingles
- Clean the garage to store your car and winter equipment and tools
- Ensure winter tools are ready for use (snow blower, ice chopper, shovels, etc.)
- Stock up on sand, kitty litter, calcium chloride or other ice-melting materials to make walkways, steps and driveways safe



Crossing these items off your list before the bitter cold arrives will help you save money and keep you cozy all winter. You can't always avoid damage from the elements, but you can help to minimize it by being proactive on preventative maintenance to your home.

SOURCES:

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Learn more at directenergy.ca

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