

As much we probably don't like to admit it, winter is just around the corner... Here are a few ways to prepare your home for the coming season!



EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE

1. INSPECT AND CLEAN GUTTERS: REMOVE LEAVES AND DEBRIS TO PREVENT ICE DAMS.
2. CHECK ROOF AND REPAIRS: LOOK FOR MISSING SHINGLES OR DAMAGE.
3. SEAL GAPS: USE CAULK TO SEAL GAPS AROUND WINDOWS AND DOORS TO KEEP COLD AIR OUT.
4. PROTECT OUTDOOR FAUCETS: DRAIN AND COVER TO PREVENT PIPES FREEZING.
5. TRIM TREES AND BRANCHES: CUT BACK BRANCHES THAT COULD FALL DUE TO SNOW OR ICE.
6. KEEP ICE BUILD UP AWAY FROM FURNACE EXHAUST

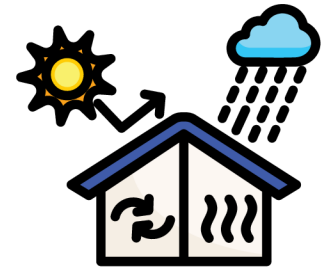
2. HEATING SYSTEM PREPARATION:



1. SERVICE FURNACE: SCHEDULE A PROFESSIONAL INSPECTION AND REPLACE THE FILTER.
2. INSPECT CHIMNEY: CLEAN AND CHECK FOR BLOCKAGES OR DAMAGE IF YOU USE A FIREPLACE.
3. TEST THERMOSTAT: ENSURE IT'S WORKING EFFICIENTLY FOR THE COLDER MONTHS.

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3. INTERIOR PREPARATIONS::

1. CHECK INSULATION: ADD INSULATION TO THE ATTIC AND SEAL ANY DRAFTS IN THE BASEMENT OR ATTIC.
2. WEATHERSTRIP WINDOWS AND DOORS: APPLY WEATHERSTRIPPING TO CLOSE GAPS.
3. REVERSE CEILING FANS: SWITCH TO CLOCKWISE TO PUSH WARM AIR DOWN.
4. KEEP WINDOW COVERINGS OPEN AT THE BOTTOM TO ALLOW AIRFLOW



4. PLUMBING PROTECTION:

1. INSULATE PIPES: USE FOAM INSULATION ON PIPES IN SUSCEPTIBLE AREAS LIKE BASEMENTS OR CRAWLSPACES.
2. CHECK FOR LEAKS: REPAIR LEAKS TO PREVENT FREEZING AND BURSTING.
3. TURN OFF EXTERIOR TAPS AND BLOW OUT IN-GROUND SPRINKLERS



5. EMERGENCY PREPERATION

1. PREPARE AN EMERGENCY KIT: INCLUDE FLASHLIGHTS, BATTERIES, BLANKETS, AND NON-PERISHABLE FOOD.
2. INSPECT SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS: ENSURE THEY HAVE FRESH BATTERIES AND ARE WORKING PROPERLY.
3. ENSURE THERE IS ALWAYS ADEQUATE MEDICATION FOR ATLEAST 2 WEEKS

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