

Winterize Your Home

Courtesy of Jim Molner, November 2017

With winter coming, it is important to winterize your home to prevent possible damages. Depending on your heating system, you should always have an interior temperature of at least 45. No heat on will contract wall and ceiling surface building materials and will cause nail pops and cracks. Leaving the heat on slightly if possible keeping the interior much dryer and help to prevent mold growth.

Gutters and drain pipes should be free of debris for proper water collection and drainage runoff. Remove excessive leaves and tree limbs from the perimeter drainage discharge areas of the structure.

Hot water baseboard heat will require that the water to the heating system be left on. Check that all bleeder valves are not leaking and air is removed from baseboard plumbing system.

HVAC duct system supply and returns could be vacuumed free of dust and / or replace return air filter with a pleated particle capturing filter (3 M) to remove and / or capture harmful air born particles.

Windows and exterior doors closed, locked, and storm windows installed to prevent air intrusions.

An inside light that will work on an automatic timer throughout the winter season can be installed.

Schedule a snow removal contractor to maintain your property during the winter months.

Winterize and / or remove or cover installed window air conditioners.

Drain water from hot water heater if it's location could possibly freeze and cause pipe breakage.

Exterior water hoses should be drained and put away for the winter to prevent damages.

Propane should be shut off at the tank if not needed for the winter.

Disconnect batteries from boats and other 12 or 24 volt electrical systems.

Check that all accessory buildings can handle heavy snow loads safely without a collapsing.

Shut down the electrical breakers that will not being used for the winter.

Keep doors open to all interior rooms and other areas for better interior air circulation. A small fan can be used to help circulate some air throughout the interior.