

Prevention Capsule



Winterizing your home

Cold weather, snow and ice may cause serious damage to your home. Canadian winters can be particularly harsh and challenging, so a little preparation can help keep your home warm and in good condition through the winter.

Fortunately, it is possible to winterize your property before the arrival of frigid temperatures to prevent any unfortunate winter mishaps and lower your heating bill. Consider these tips to protect your home and make it more energy efficient during the coldest season of the year.

Before winter

- Clear your gutters to prevent ice buildup
- Have your roof inspected by a professional and repair any damage including replacing missing shingles;
- Locate and close shut-off valves that lead to outside faucets to avoid damage caused by trapped water;
- Insulate pipes in unheated areas, such as the attic, with sleeves or heating pads to prevent freezing or bursting of pipes;
- Clear out areas around tanks and pipes so that they are easily accessible;
- Insulate your attic and make sure that the air vents are not blocked;



- Seal drafts by installing weather stripping and redoing the caulking around windows and doors
- Have your chimney cleaned to remove soot and creosote buildup;
- Boost efficiency by having your furnace professionally serviced;
- Trim trees back from the house; the weight of snow or ice can cause branches to break and fall causing damage to your house.



During winter

- Inspect your property regularly and keep up with snow and ice removal on and around your property (stairs, doors, balconies and driveways);
- Have your roof cleared of significant accumulations of snow by a snow-removal company;
- Keep your residence heated even when not at home to prevent pipes from freezing.



Finding a licensed contractor who has the right skill set to manage the repairs or inspection on your home is recommended.

