

Tips to Prepare Your Home for Winter Weather



Ice, snow and freezing weather can be tough on your home, but there are plenty of easy ways to stay warm indoors and keep your house in good condition. Follow these DIY tips to prepare your home before the chill hits — you'll be more comfortable when the thermometer dips and save more on energy bills.

- ❑ **Change your filters:** Clogged and dirty filters are the number one reason contractors receive calls for failing heating systems. They cause the heater to work much harder and lead to early failure. Changing your filters regularly can prevent this, and if you have baseboard heating, make sure the coils are clean and clear of dust and debris.
- ❑ **Minimize air drafts:** Easy-to-use air sealing kits and insulating spray foam are available at most hardware stores. Use these to seal gaps around doors, light fixtures and plumbing under the sink or behind your washing machine. This will reduce drafts and keep warm air inside.
- ❑ **Remove window A/C units:** By leaving your air conditioning unit in your window during cold months, you'll allow heated air to escape, leaving you colder and leading to higher heating bills.
- ❑ **Check your fireplace:** Chimneys can be responsible for substantial heat loss. If you have an open fireplace in the home, make sure the damper is fully closed when it is not in use.
- ❑ **Close the curtains at night:** Even with highly efficient windows, the area around them can get cold. Insulated shades and cloth curtains create a buffer zone between you and the cold glass, leading to more comfortable temperatures indoors.
- ❑ **Open the curtains in the day:** Even in winter, opening your curtains allows your home to absorb plenty of free heat from the sun during the day. Plus, exposure to natural light has been shown to improve your mood!



If you're not sure where to start or if you want help winter-proofing your home, **contact your utility** or **reach out to a local contractor for support.**

Comfort Ready Home is sponsored by Bonneville Power Administration and its Northwest Utilities.



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