

A Winter Ready Home

You might wear gloves and a hat to protect yourself from cold temperatures outside, but did you know that your home needs protection, too?

With the proper maintenance, you can prepare your home for the winter season and reduce heat loss during a power outage.

Follow these tips, including:

- Hire a contractor to check the structural ability of your roof to sustain unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow or ice;
- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspaper and plastic;
- Allow faucets to drip during cold weather to avoid freezing; and
- Have a professional inspect your chimney or heating equipment.

For added warmth, you may choose to use indoor space heaters. If you purchase a space heater, look for one that has an automatic shut-off or tip-over switch. Place the heater on a level surface away from high-traffic areas and flammable items such as curtains, bedding, or furniture. Make sure the room has enough ventilation to help prevent [carbon monoxide poisoning](#).

Winter Care for Pets

Winter weather can be dangerous not only for humans, but for pets too! Taking extra precautions throughout the season can ensure your pets stay healthy and happy. [The Humane Society of the United States](#) offers tips to keep pets safe, including:

- **Protect paws from salt.** This and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet's feet. Be sure to wipe off their paws with a damp towel;
- **Keep pets warm and indoors.** No matter the temperature, windchill can threaten a pet's life. Pets are sensitive to severe cold and are at risk for frostbite when outdoors during extreme cold snaps; and
- **Avoid antifreeze poisoning.** Antifreeze has a sweet taste that may attract animals but is a deadly poison. Don't allow pets to wander unattended near driveways, garages or other places when they may come into contact with antifreeze.

It only takes a few tablespoons of highly toxic antifreeze to injure your pet.