

10 STEPS:

Winter Storm Mitigation for Homeowners

Winter storms can be unpredictable and bring with them a host of challenges, from treacherous road conditions to power outages and bitterly cold temperatures. To ensure your safety and comfort during these challenging times, it's essential to be well-prepared.

Preparing for a winter storm can be stressful, but worth it. Be aware of the risks to power lines and road conditions to stay ahead of potential damage.

TOP 10 THINGS TO DO BEFORE A WINTER STORM

01. Monitor Weather Updates

Stay informed by regularly checking weather forecasts through reputable sources. Knowing when a storm is approaching will give you **ample time to prepare**. Sign up for weather alerts and consider investing in a weather radio for reliable updates.



02. Stock Up on Essentials

Before the storm hits, make sure you have enough supplies to last for several days. This includes **non-perishable food, water, and medications**. Remember to have a manual can opener on hand, and stock up on baby supplies and pet food if applicable.



03. Prepare an Emergency Kit

Put together an emergency kit that includes flashlights, batteries, a first-aid kit, blankets, warm clothing, and necessary personal documents. These items will **ensure your comfort and safety** during a power outage or if you need to evacuate.



04. Inspect Your Roof

Before winter arrives, inspect your home's roof and gutters to ensure they are in good condition. Snow and ice can place **significant weight on your roof**, potentially leading to damage or leaks. Look for signs of visible damage, such as missing or damaged shingles, loose flashing, or sagging areas



05. Consider Emergency Heating

In the event of a power outage, having an alternative heating source is crucial. Invest in a **generator, wood-burning stove, or kerosene heater**. Ensure that these heating sources are used safely and are adequately ventilated to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.



06. Prepare Your Pipes and Ventilation



When your home loses power and there is no electricity backup, your pipes and chimney are at a higher risk of damage. Consider insulating vulnerable pipes to **prevent freezing and bursting**, such as in your basement. If you have a chimney, clean out the chimneys and vents for proper ventilation. This will help your family if you have a need to start a fire.

07. Winterize Your Vehicle

If you must travel during a winter storm, ensure your vehicle is prepared. Equip it with snow tires to help prevent skidding on the road. Check the battery, brakes, and antifreeze levels. Keep an **emergency kit in your car** as well, including a shovel, blankets, and a flashlight.



08. Salt and Clear Walkways

To **prevent slips and falls**, keep your sidewalks and driveways clear of snow and ice. Stock up on rock salt, sand, or ice melt to spread on these areas before and after a storm. Shoveling regularly can also help prevent the buildup of hazardous ice patches.



09. Trim Overhanging Trees

Inspect your property for overhanging tree branches that could break under the **weight of ice or snow** and fall on your home or car. Trim or remove these branches to prevent damage during the storm.



10. Stay Informed and Stay Home

During the storm, it's safest to **stay home** if possible. Monitor local news and weather reports for updates on road conditions. Avoid unnecessary travel, as this can help reduce accidents and alleviate stress on emergency services.



BE PREPARED.

Winter storms can be devastating, but with the right knowledge and precautions, you can significantly reduce the risk of damage to yourself and your home. Preparing for a winter storm can significantly help your family stay home and comfortable until the storm passes.

Be sure to give your family plenty of time to prepare and gain everything needed to have a safe home environment.