

Helpful Tips for Winterizing Your Home

The City of Horseshoe Bay Utilities Department has produced a helpful video for residents to guide them through the process of winterizing their homes. You may view the video on the City's website by visiting www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/winterize.

Why Winterize Your Home?

Winter in Horseshoe Bay can often bring rapidly freezing temperatures without much warning, which can damage pipes and increase water waste if you're not prepared. This may cause serious damage to your home, not to mention your wallet! Consider taking these important steps well in advance of predicted cold snaps so you are not scrambling to protect your home at the last minute.

Tips for Winterizing Your Home's Exterior

The first step you should take is to insulate any exposed pipes. You can start by insulating exposed pipes in your home, like those in crawl spaces, attics, or along exterior walls. Use hose bib covers on outdoor faucets.

The next step is to shut off outdoor water. Turn off and drain outdoor faucets and sprinkler systems and disconnect hoses to prevent freezing. Know where your main water shut off valve is in case of pipe bursts.

Next, seal any leaks and drafts. Caulk around windows, doors, and foundation, and use weatherstripping to block drafts. Sealing gaps around windows and doors will help keep cold air out and prevent pipes from freezing during winter weather.

Let faucets connected to vulnerable pipes drip slightly to keep water moving. Regularly check for leaks from faucets and pipes to catch issues early.

Other simple steps you can take that will help protect your home include cleaning debris from gutters and the roof and repairing damaged shingles. Taking these steps will help prevent ice dams from forming.

Additional Tips for Your Home's Interior

Protect your heating system by getting your furnace serviced, changing out filters, and using a programmable thermostat. Protect your fireplace by getting your chimney inspected and ensuring that dampers are sealed tightly.

Consider adding insulation to your attic, basement, and crawl spaces for better heat retention. On cold days, reversing your ceiling fans so that they run clockwise can help push warm air down. Opening curtains on sunny days lets in warmth; closing them at night helps with insulation.

This is also a great time of year to test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Checking smoke detectors in winter is crucial because cold weather increases fire risks from heating systems, holiday lights, and cooking, while also impacting battery performance. People are indoors more often during winter months. Fire incidents rise

significantly in winter (around 27-30%), and working alarms are your best defense against heating-related fires, electrical overloads, and unattended cooking hazards.

Additional Steps to Take During Extreme Cold Snaps

Remember to drip your faucets when there is an impending freeze. A slow drip from hot and cold faucets will suffice. You can also open cabinets in your kitchen and bathrooms to allow warm air to circulate to pipes.

Winterizing not only protects your home but also conserves water by preventing leaks and bursts. The Utilities Department reminds all residents that conserving water conserves life! We hope you stay warm and secure in your homes this winter season!

Please stay tuned for the Utilities Department's next article about pressure reducing valves. The article will cover how pressure is regulated before it enters your house and suggested routine maintenance checks you can follow to ensure proper operation.