

Winter Home Maintenance Checklist

A practical lowa-focused checklist to help home owners stay safe, warm and prepared all winter.

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Use this checklist throughout the winter to help protect your home from freezing temperatures, snow, ice, dry indoor air and Iowa winter storms.

1) SNOW, ICE & EXTERIOR

- ☐ Keep sidewalks, steps and driveways cleared before snow gets packed down.
- ☐ Use ice melt that is appropriate for your concrete, pets and landscaping.
- ☐ Keep snow away from exterior vents, gas meters, heat pumps and dryer exhausts.
- ☐ Check handrails and exterior lighting so entrances stay safer after dark.
- ☐ Watch for heavy snow or ice buildup on decks, awnings and vulnerable structures.

2) HEATING, HUMIDITY & AIRFLOW

- ☐ Check the furnace filter monthly and replace it when dirty.
- ☐ Keep heat registers and cold-air returns open and clear of furniture.
- ☐ Use a safe indoor humidity level to limit dry air and window condensation.
- ☐ Listen for unusual furnace noises and address heating problems before extreme cold.
- ☐ Keep combustible items well away from furnaces, fireplaces and space heaters.

3) PLUMBING & FREEZE PROTECTION

- ☐ Keep garage doors closed when plumbing lines run through or near the garage.
- ☐ Open sink cabinets on very cold nights if pipes are located along exterior walls.
- ☐ Let vulnerable faucets drip during severe cold when freezing is a concern.
- ☐ Know where your main water shutoff is and check exposed plumbing for leaks.
- ☐ If you leave town, keep the heat on and have someone check the home during cold weather.

4) ROOF, ATTIC & ICE DAMS

- ☐ Watch roof edges and gutters for repeated ice buildup or large icicles.
- ☐ Check ceilings and attic areas for new water stains after snow or thaw cycles.
- ☐ Keep attic vents clear so warm, moist air can escape properly.
- ☐ Do not climb onto an icy roof; call a professional if snow or ice removal is needed.
- ☐ After major storms, visually check shingles, flashing and gutters from the ground.

5) INDOOR SAFETY & EFFICIENCY

- ☐ Test smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors and keep fresh batteries on hand.
- ☐ Use space heaters only on stable surfaces with plenty of clearance around them.
- ☐ Check windows and doors for cold drafts; add temporary sealing where needed.
- ☐ Reverse ceiling fans to clockwise on low to help move warm air downward.
- ☐ Clean dryer lint regularly and make sure the exterior dryer vent remains clear of snow.

6) WINTER STORM READINESS

- ☐ Keep snow shovels, ice melt and a working snowblower easy to reach.
- ☐ Maintain flashlights, batteries, blankets, bottled water and basic emergency supplies.
- ☐ Keep phones and backup power banks charged when a major storm is forecast.
- ☐ Know how to safely shut off water, gas or electricity in an emergency.
- ☐ Check on older neighbors, family members and vacant properties during severe weather.

Selling this spring? Winter is a smart time to start planning.

Use the quieter winter months to make a repair list, gather project estimates and talk through timing. If you'd like a pre-listing walk-through or want to discuss value and preparation, I'd be glad to help.