



Time to Winterize

Winter is right around the corner. There are several things you should consider doing before the weather gets really cold and the snow comes down. The first is winterizing your house. That consists of checking your storm windows and exterior doors for cracks, openings, etc. Seal any cracks and openings and weather-proof where needed. Add insulation where needed. Have your furnace cleaned and change the furnace filters. Make sure there no flammable materials near your furnace. If you have a fireplace, have it inspected to make sure it is safe. Also, clean your gutter and downspouts, and inspect your roof for any missing or worn shingles. Insulate any exposed pipes to prevent water in them from freezing and drain the garden hose. Service or tune-up your snow blower, make sure you have a good snow shovel, stock up on driveway salt, candles, flash lights, extra food and water.

Next, winterize your car. Check the tires for wear and check the tire pressure. Also, check the battery, belts, hoses, lights, heater, defroster, brakes, antifreeze, etc. You should change the oil and wiper blades and fill the wiper reservoir. You should also make sure you have a blanket, a first aid kit, tool kit, flares, cat litter, jumper cables, a snow brush, an ice scraper, a shovel, water and some food in your car. If you are not confident that your car will not get through the winter, now is a good time to consider replacing it with a more reliable one. If you do decide to replace your car, there are many ways you can deal with your present car. You will receive a valuable tax deduction if you donate your car to charity. Your car donation will also help a very worthy cause. For details on how to donate a car, call Cars4Charities at (866) 448-3487. or visit their website, www.cars4charities.org/.

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