

AHA Winter Readiness Checklist

Created by the American Homeowners Association (AHA)



What You'll Need

- Flashlight (for attic, crawlspace, and dark corners)
- Pen or pencil (to take notes)
- Clipboard (to write on the go)
- Thermal leak detector or incense stick (to detect drafts)
- Optional: Tape measure, digital thermometer, smart sensors, outlet gaskets, weatherstripping



Whole Home Draft & Air Leak Check

- ☐ **Windows & Doors:** Check for drafts around frames. Do they seal tightly?
- ☐ **Baseboards & Trim:** Look for gaps where air might leak.
- ☐ **Outlets & Switch Plates:** Feel for cold air. Add foam gaskets if needed.
- ☐ **Attic Hatch:** Ensure it is sealed and insulated.
- ☐ **Ceiling Fans:** Reverse direction to clockwise (winter mode).
- ☐ **Door Sweeps & Weatherstripping:** Inspect and replace if worn.
- ☐ **Smart Curtains/Blinds:** Use programmable systems for heat retention.



Plumbing & Pipe Freeze Protection

- ☐ **Insulate Exposed Pipes:** Use foam sleeves in unheated spaces.
- ☐ **Outdoor Faucets:** Disconnect hoses and install covers.
- ☐ **Drip Faucets:** In extreme cold, let faucets trickle.
- ☐ **Smart Leak/Freeze Sensors:** Install in high-risk areas (under sinks, near water heaters).
- ☐ **Shutoff Valve:** Locate and test functionality.
- ☐ **Sprinklers/Pool:** Fully winterize or drain.

AHA Winter Readiness Checklist - Cont'd



Exterior & Roof Prep

- ☐ **Clean Gutters:** Remove leaves to prevent ice dams.
- ☐ **Inspect Roof:** Check for missing shingles, leaks.
- ☐ **Gutter Guards/Heat Cables:** Consider if in snow-prone region.
- ☐ **Trim Branches:** Especially near roof or power lines.
- ☐ **Store/Protect Furniture:** Cover or bring inside.
- ☐ **Smart Outdoor Plugs:** Use with heat tape or lights.



Energy Efficiency Boosts

- ☐ **Thermal Curtains:** Add to reduce window heat loss.
- ☐ **LED Lighting:** Swap bulbs to cut winter lighting costs.
- ☐ **Energy Audit:** Consider professional or use AHA DIY guide.
- ☐ **Water Heater:** Set to 120–130°F, insulate tank if needed.
- ☐ **Smart Plugs:** Automate schedules for energy-hungry devices.



Emergency Prep

- ☐ **Emergency Kit:** Stock water, blankets, flashlight, batteries.
- ☐ **Portable Heater:** Confirm indoor safety & fuel availability.
- ☐ **Fuel Supply:** Refill propane, firewood, or generator fuel.
- ☐ **Power Outage Alerts:** Enable via smart apps like Ting.
- ☐ **Neighbor Check-ins:** Arrange help if traveling or away.
- ☐ **Smart Monitoring:** Set alerts for temperature, leaks, outages.

AHA Winter Readiness Checklist - Cont'd



If Leaving Home (Snowbirds or Extended Travel)

- ☐ **Set Thermostat:** 55°F or higher.
- ☐ **Shut Off Water:** And drain lines if safe.
- ☐ **Smart Sensors:** Ensure active monitoring for freeze, leaks, power loss.
- ☐ **Trusted Contact:** Have someone check your home regularly.
- ☐ **Auto Shutoff Valve:** Confirm installation or test manual shutoff.



Additional Notes

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