



HOME Rochester Homeowners Winter Newsletter

Question of the season: How can I help prevent warm air from escaping my home?

Answer: Do a check for drafts from windows and doors throughout your home. Place weather stripping tape around windows. Consider adding window insulation film. Caulk gaps. Use a door draft guard.

Winter Maintenance Checklist

- **Gutter clean out-** Clear debris from gutters. Clogged gutters are the primary reason ice dams build. Water in the basement can be caused from clogged gutter water overrun. Make sure that downspouts are clear and are pointed away from the house.
- **Inspect windows and doors-** Conduct a check for drafts. Install or inspect your current weather-stripping around windows and replace worn weather-stripping. Caulk any gaps. Use a door draft guard. Check for cracked or broken windows. A tight seal is the first line of defense against air and water.
- **Exterior hoses-** Drain water from outdoor faucets and remove exterior hoses. Coil and store hoses indoors.
- **Furnace and sump pump -** Change your air furnace filter, a new filter will help your furnace run more efficiently. Do a check of your furnace and your sump pump for proper function. Consider having your furnace professionally serviced before winter sets in.
- **Heat vents-** Vacuum dust build up from your heat vent grates. Clear any obstacles away from the front of your heat vents.
- **Dryer vent and house fans-** Clean out your lint trap each cycle. Unplug your dryer and clean your dryer vent and hose monthly. Your vent is found at the back of the dryer. Check for proper functioning of your kitchen exhaust and bathroom fans; clean filters. Exhaust fans rid the room air of excess moisture, humidity, odors and pollutants.
- **Leaks in/out-faucets-** Check under the kitchen and bathroom sinks to make sure connections on pipes and hoses are properly sealed. Look for wetness around the dishwasher that could signal an existing or potential problem. Check your washing machine hoses for cracks, bulges or dampness. Also check hot water heaters, which may show signs of corrosion and leaks.
- **Roof-** Check your roof for loose, damaged or missing shingles. Replace shingles where necessary. Consider a roof rake to remove excess snow from your roof; it is an inexpensive way to prevent ice damming.
- **Smoke Detectors and CO Alarms-** Replace batteries in your smoke detectors and check for proper functioning of CO alarms. Have a working fire extinguisher on hand.

You may want to enlist a professional to assist with some of these tasks.

Our mission is to send out tips for seasonal home maintenance to assist you with successful homeownership

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This content is available in Spanish upon request.