



HOME Rochester and Make Monroe Home

Homeowner's Winter 2025 Newsletter

Winter Maintenance Checklist

- **Winter weather supplies-** Be prepared with a snow shovel, ice melt and proper winter clothing to protect yourself from cold temperatures while outside.
- **Winter safety-** Shovel your walkways and use ice melt which will also create traction to prevent slipping or falling.
- **Help heat from escaping your home-** Inspect windows and doors by conducting a check for drafts. Install or check existing weather-stripping around windows and doors. Replace worn weather-stripping and 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.
- **Furnace filter and sump pump-** Change your air furnace filter at least every 90 days, 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 in the winter.
- **Heat vents-** Dust builds up on your heat vent grates, vacuum them to ensure that they are clear of dust. Clear any obstacles away from the front of your heat vents.
- **Gutter clean out-** Clear debris from gutters before it freezes. 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.
- **Tree limbs-** Trim tree limbs away from your house and gutters to avoid fallen branches. Branches that hang over your roof line should be trimmed regularly.
- **Exterior faucets/spigot-** Disconnect your hose from outside faucets.
- **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.
- **Dryer vent and house fans-** Clean out your lint trap after each use. 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.
- **Smoke Detectors and CO Alarms-** If your smoke detector is battery operated, 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 goal is to send out tips for seasonal home maintenance to assist you with successful homeownership

Please respond to this e-mail and indicate if you choose to opt out of further newsletter communication.

This content is available in Spanish upon request.

We're looking to improve neighborhoods by rehabbing vacant homes. Do you see vacant or abandoned homes around your neighborhood? If so, please contact us with an address & we'll investigate!

Contact: Tim Wildman, Program Manager twildman@grhp.org or (585) 423-6321



Do you know someone interested in purchasing a new home? If so, pass along this information to them!

Buy The Block builds new single-family, high-quality homes in under-invested areas of the city of Rochester. The homes are then sold to qualified first-time homebuyers who will spend no more than 30 percent of their income on housing.

The first phase of Buy the Block was focused on properties in Northeast Rochester, where we built and sold 19 homes with the final 5 homes under construction now. Construction of up to sixteen houses built by GRHP in the second phase of Buy the Block in Southwest Rochester has begun!

The diverse floor plans in our models address a range of needs, including extra storage space for larger households and those with children; single-story homes for aging in place and/or mobility concerns; and accommodations for those with special needs. The homes will be Energy Star 3.0 certified and will include all-electric heat pump heating and cooling systems as well as an appliance package including a refrigerator, stove, range, microwave, dishwasher, washer and dryer. Applications are open and will remain open until all slots are filled. Any additional applications received after that will be added to a waiting list.

<https://www.cityofrochester.gov/departments/neighborhood-and-business-development/buy-block#apply>

For more information contact:

Ibero American Development Corp. at (585)467-6410 ext. 821, Email: buytheblock@iberodevelopment.org

OR Greater Rochester Housing Partnership at (585)423-6320

SEAC TOOL SHED- AFFORDABLE TOOL LENDING PROGRAM FOR GREATER ROCHESTARIANS

This program's mission is to provide access to tools to any resident, business, or organization in the Greater Rochester Area, for a small annual fee (\$25 per year for the basic level). Tools are expensive and shouldn't be an obstacle to anyone wanting to do repairs on their home, business or in the community. Many people do not purchase tools because either they cannot afford them or simply do not wish to pay for something they will use once, maybe twice, in their lifetime. This program removes both of those hurdles, giving access to tools to those who need and want it.



Visit <https://seactoolshed.org/> or call (585) 271-TOOL (8665) to learn more!

AREA EVENTS

Looking for new and exciting things to do in our area?

Check out the link below for creative and interesting things to do in the City:
www.cityofrochester.gov/events



Check out the link below for interesting events throughout Monroe County:
<https://www.visitrochester.com/events/>