



HOME Rochester and Make Monroe Home

Homeowner's Winter 2026 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 obstruction 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.
- **Drains and clogs-** Do not place any type of oil down your kitchen drain, it clogs your drain. Toilet drains can only support waste and toilet paper. Do not flush any type of wipe down your toilets.
- **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

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

Homeowner Resources

Colder weather often means rising energy costs. New York's Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is available as a resource for families who may be struggling to keep up with extra costs. See if you're eligible and apply for assistance here: [HEAP Contacts | Home Energy Assistance Program \(HEAP\) | OTDA](#)

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!

SENIOR RESOURCES

****New York State Office of the Aging** can help those who are in need of programs and services for older adults and those who care for them.

****Monroe County older adults** can now join the Virtual Senior Center! The VSC offers interactive live classes and engaging entertainment led by subject matter experts, and provides a 2-way, video chat so that you can talk directly with other members and program instructors.

<https://www.monroecounty.gov/news-2026-01-12-vsc>

Events in our Area



Get out and enjoy all that our City and County have to offer!

Click on the links below to find out more.

<https://www.cityofrochester.gov/events>



<https://www.cityofrochester.gov/departments/departments-recreation-and-human-services-drhs/recreation-recreation-center-programs-activities>

WE'RE HIRING GENERAL CONTRACTORS!



We're seeking experienced General Contractors to work on whole house rehabbed homes in our housing programs in the City of Rochester and in Monroe County.



If you know someone that that is an experienced GC, we invite them to contact us to learn more about working for us in our community housing programs, HOME Rochester and Make Monroe Home! Call #585-423-6320 or email: cpennella@grhp.org.

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