

5 Target Areas to Winterize Your Home

Before a Freeze in Central Texas



Inside The Home

Protect Your Pipes

- Wrap exposed pipes in insulation. If you don't have proper pipe insulation, a quick fix is to wrap the pipe in towels, cover with a plastic bag, and secure with a rubber band.
- Open cabinets under kitchen or bathroom sinks, especially on exterior walls of the home, to allow warm air within the house to circulate through the cabinet.
- Open both hot and hold taps slightly, to allow a steady drip of water from faucets. This aids in preventing the pipe from freezing, as well as minimizes damage by relieving pressure if the pipe does freeze.

Keep The Chill Out

Find any areas of your house that let in a draft. Usually, the culprits are windows, doors, air conditioning units, pet doors, and mail drops. Repair any large damage you find professionally. For smaller gaps, seal the areas by using caulk or weather stripping.

Outside The Home

Protect Your Yard

- Drain and disconnect your hoses
- Shut off and drain water from your irrigation system
- Bring potted plants indoors
- Insulate your hose bibs/ faucets using an outdoor faucet cover
- Insulate larger plants by covering with tents made from tarps or sheets

Gutter Maintenance

Icicles are pretty but they can tear off gutters, loosen shingles, and cause water to back up into your house.

Clogged gutters can easily get overwhelmed with ice, leading to ice dams. Before a freeze, remove dead leaves and dirt from your gutters so that melting water can drain away through the downspouts as intended.

Consider installing gutter guards, which will keep out debris in the future.

Prevention is better than a cure!

Have an Emergency Kit Ready

First-Aid Kit
Extra Blankets
Extra Batteries

Ice Scraper

**Portable Jump Starter
and Jumper Cables**

Firewood

**Battery-Powered Flashlight
And Candles**

Portable Phone Charger

Use your phone to follow updates on twitter or local government websites

Drinking Water

A good rule of thumb is a gallon per person per day for a week

**Canned And Other
Non-Perishable Food**

Granola bars, dried fruit, jerky, etc.

Water Shut Off Key

Something every homeowner should have, use it to shut off water to your home in case of a broken pipe, or use it to drain the water in your pipes to avoid any breaks.